



Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar presents the deed to a residential lot to one ex-Caroni (1975) Ltd. worker. Looking on at left is Minister of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath.

## Ex-Caroni Workers Given Go-Ahead To Start Building Their Homes

Having received their leases, close to five hundred ex-Caroni (1975) Ltd. workers can now look forward to constructing their homes on residential sites developed by the EMBD. Though the company would have preferred to have these sites prepared in a much shorter time frame there were numerous challenges, which impeded the completion of the sites.

Through the intervention of the Minister of Food Production Land and Marine Affairs (FPLMA) Senator the Honourable Vasant Bharath, the works were fast tracked at the various sites. The Minister was instrumental in assembling a team of key personnel from various state agencies to work with the EMBD to complete these sites. The agencies,

led by a representative from WASA, included Caroni (1975) Ltd, MFPLMA, T&TEC, Drainage Department of the Ministry of Works, respective Regional Corporations and Lands and Surveys.

The establishment of this team created a synergy, which facilitated interaction and speedier resolutions among the agencies to some of the issues which had previously prevented the completion of the sites. This made it possible for the sites to be furnished with all the required statutory approvals from WASA, Town and Country Planning Division, Drainage Department, Fire Services, T&TEC, and the completion certificate from the relevant Regional Corporations.

The following sites are now complete with final approval and are ready for distribution to the intended recipients. Caroni (1975) Limited is responsible for assigning the recipients and preparing leases for the lots at these sites.

- 1 Esperanza
- 2 Exchange I
- 3 Mc Bean
- 4 Sonny Ladoo
- 5 Roopsingh Road I
- 6 Chin Chin
- 7 Exchange II



# UWI St. Augustine On Board As The LISTT Moves Forward

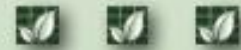
The EMBD has been commissioned by the Land Management Division (LMD) of the MFPLAM to project manage and develop a Land Information System of Trinidad and Tobago (LISTT) to effectively quantify and manage all State Lands in Trinidad and Tobago. In fulfilling this mandate, the EMBD has awarded a contract to the Business Development Unit of the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, to design and build an Enterprise Geographical Information System (EGIS) to facilitate the LISTT. The User Needs Assessment and Conceptual Plan were completed and serve as the basis for the design and

build for the LISTT. The project will span three years and is expected to be completed in December 2014.

Phase one of the project, includes the survey of unauthorized reclaimed lands and coastal structures along the coastline in the North Western peninsula of Trinidad; the development of test sites for a Pilot Study area; and the initiation of field data collection for test sites comprising Residential, Agricultural and other State Lands.

Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed

between the LMD and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) to include Tobago's State Lands within the LISTT. The LISTT provides a model for bringing together the MFPLAM and the leading educational Institute in Trinidad and Tobago, the UWI, in an effective project management setting to solve some of the nation's pressing land management issues.



## NORTH WEST PENINSULA - TRINIDAD



# Better Roads... More Farming!



Farmer Ramkumar Mahabir, flanked by EMBDs (l) Vincent Vialva and (r) Makesi Hamilton.

During fiscal 2010\2011 the EMBD continued with the rehabilitation of agricultural access roads in the various "food baskets" throughout the country on behalf of the MFPLMA. In an effort to ascertain the views of farmers who benefitted from the new agricultural access roads, interviews and surveys were conducted in several farming areas.

While on a visit to a farming area in Freeport we met **Ramkumar Mahabir** an enthusiastic eighty-year-old farmer, who has been farming for well over sixty years. He plants cashew, citrus, coconut, corn and bananas. Mahabir described to us the great difficulties which the farmers in the area experienced to transport their crops as a result of the deplorable access roads.

The farmer could barely control his excitement as he expressed his gratitude to the government for the rehabilitated access roads, which were previously built by the farming community. He claimed that it was also the first time the government had intervened to provide access roads in the area.

On-going site visits to farmers in other areas, also reveal that the majority now feel very encouraged to continue farming and expand their crops.

During fiscal 2011\2012, the EMBD will aim to rehabilitate approximately 250 km of agricultural access roads. Undoubtedly, this programme will enable farming and the various activities involved in farming, to be less stressful for our hardworking farmers throughout the country.

## Farmer Says The On-Farm Pond Programme Is A Great Relief!



Sonar, with EMBD's Gordon Charles at his pond

**Anthony Sonar**, a farmer in La Compensation, is a very happy farmer. This is because he is one of the two hundred farmers who is now benefitting from the MFPLMA's On Farm Pond Programme. The EMBD, through its Projects Department, is responsible for managing the construction of one hundred and sixty of these ponds.

Sonar, who plants hot peppers, ochro, corn and cabbage, explained the water woes which he and so many farmers across the country are affected by, especially during the dry season. However, relief has come his way since the construction of the pond on his farm.

During a visit to his farm he was proud to show us how effectively the irrigation pump, which he is now using to bring water directly from the pond to his crops is working. He expressed his thanks to the government for the pond and said that farming has become a lot easier for him now.

## Stress... let's deal

**with it!** *Stress isn't always bad. Stress can initiate change, help us focus on the task at hand, and in some cases even save our lives. Yet, when stress builds up, it can result in the opposite - and cause us to spin our wheels, keep us from concentrating, and cause bodily injury and even loss of life.*

### Take a Deep Breath and Count to Ten

This adds oxygen to your system and almost instantly helps you relax. In addition, taking a moment to step back can help you maintain your composure, which in the long run, is what you need to work rationally through a stressful situation.

### Stop and Smell the Roses

"Things happen" and sometimes "bad things happen to good people". If we let them, stressful events can build up, wall us in, and eventually stop us from enjoying the good things in life.

1. Take the time. Too often we put the pleasantries of life on the back burner, telling ourselves we don't "have time" or can't "make time" for them. However, actually, time is the only thing we do completely own. Each of us starts the day with exactly the same amount of time. Take a part of your time to recognize the good things in your life.
2. Sleep on it. Every coin has two sides and every issue has its pros and cons. List them both then put the list away and take a second look tomorrow. Sometimes "sleeping on" a situation changes the minuses to pluses.
3. Every cloud has a silver lining. Find the good in your stressful situation by listing the negative surges and determining what it will take to make them into positive charges!

### "A Man's Got to Know His Limitations"

Knowing yourself and your limits may be the most important way to manage stress effectively.

1. Dare to say no. One more little thing may be the "straw that breaks the camel's back". It's okay to say "No", "I can't", or "Later".
2. When you need help, get help. Whether you need help from your kids or spouse, or help from a colleague to solve a work-related problem, or professional help to find the causes of and effectively manage your stress, getting the help you need is in itself a major stress

# Their 'Finest' Hour..

Whatever the reason... whatever the season, you can expect the staff of the EMBD, our stars, to always shine brightly.

Christmas, Divali, and Eid of 2011 were no exceptions as staff came out in all their glitter and glamour. Resplendent in their finest, our stars rose on each occasion and celebrated or observed as only Trininis and Embidians can.

Another of our stars with reason to celebrate is our Divisional Manager of Finance, Ms Nadira Mohammed, who recently completed her MBA with Henley University. She was also awarded a special prize as the "Top Performer" in her graduating year with the local educational institution. Way to go Nadira!



1. Congratulations to Ms Nadira Mohammed seen here in her graduation cap and gown.
2. Not to be outdone by the females, our Dapper Dans donned their Divali best for the occasion.
3. The elegance of our female staffers in their Divali presentations.
4. Female and Male Divali 'Best Dressed' Contest Winners stop to have their picture taken.
5. Staff pause to observe Breast Cancer Day.
- 6 & 7. At the EMBD'S Christmas party.



Rajesh Bikaroo stands with his son in front of his residential lot.

## Rajesh Bikaroo Is All Smiles Now!

Having lost his father as a young teenager Rajesh Bikaroo claims he has experienced some very tough and wearisome times trying to take care of himself and his family. However, this former cane cutter and mailman with Caroni (1975) Ltd., is nowadays wearing a big smile, having received the deed for his residential lot at Sonny Ladoo, McBean Couva.

Rajesh says with the wait for the land over, he feels like a weight has been lifted off his shoulder and has already started laying the foundation to start the construction of his house. The thirty-eight year old father of two boys who is now a self-employed joiner is determined to ensure that he is able to provide a home for his family. He says it will be like a dream coming true for him.

