



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

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ENERGY MINISTER PUTS AN END TO CAPARO QUARRYING

PORT OF SPAIN Energy Minister, the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan has ordered an immediate halt of all quarrying operations in the Ravine Sable/Caparo region.

The Ministry has determined that the activity of seven (7) unlicensed operators and one (1) licensed operator is the cause of the severe erosion and the corresponding problems with flooding being experienced in the area.

A Ministry team reviewed the site on May 29th and June 2nd 2010 and determined that the quarrying of unconsolidated plastering sands deposits in the Ravine Sable/Caparo region has adversely affected the stability of the slope and drainage in the area since excavation works were being conducted in close proximity to roads and water courses. This resulted in the erosion of the bank of the Caparo River, slumping of the roadway, and flooding of adjacent quarry pits during the heavy rainfall experienced this week.

Ministry officials also noted that an embankment near a ravine in the vicinity was excavated causing the Caparo River to overflow its banks and leading to the flooding and submersion of close to thirty (30) acres of land creating a lagoon.

In this regard the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs has ordered with immediate effect the termination of all illegal quarrying activity in the area and the review of any duly licensed activity. The assistance of the Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT) has been sought with a view to giving effect to this order.

Officers of SAUTT have already begun giving effect to the order as of June 3rd 2010.

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