



MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT Corporate Communication Unit

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UPDATE ON ROADWAY FAILURE AT MOSQUITO CREEK

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MEDIA RELEASE

The Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) wishes to provide an update on the road failure along the Mosquito Creek. On Saturday January 22nd 2022, the National Infrastructure Development Company (NIDCO) Limited confirmed a slope instability along the northern carriageway of the Mosquito Creek. In an effort to minimize propagation of the failure, the cracks were initially covered to prevent ingress of surface runoff and the earth-fill and pavement loads on the embankment were immediately reduced. The area is presently being monitored on a daily basis by the Project Managers (NIDCO) and the FIDIC Engineer (AECOM USA).

NIDCO has engaged the expertise of local Geotechnical Engineer, Dr. Derek Gay together with AECOM's team of technical experts who are presently investigating the road failure in an effort to propose a suitable solution. Specialist equipment was required which has recently arrived in the country. Investigations are continuing after which a report will be submitted to the Ministry for review.

To review the final reports submitted by NIDCO, the Ministry of Works and Transport has appointed a committee comprising of senior engineers chaired by the Ministry's Chief Technical Officer. Additionally, the Ministry of Works and Transport has sorted the assistance of the CAF Development Bank of Latin America to conduct an independent geotechnical assessment of the affected area through its technical assistance programme. This independent specialist will also assist the MOWT with the review of the report provided by NIDCO.

The completion of these investigations is critical given the prevailing geotechnical conditions of the soil type on the project site. While there have been requests for a definitive statement on causality, situations of this nature require a systemic and strategic approach that is researched and data-driven. The technical team requires time to investigate the prevailing issues, identify clear causality factors and develop appropriate engineering solutions moving forward.

The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all the required steps are taken to address this matter in an effort to mitigate any reoccurrence.

For further information and updates, visit
www.mowt.gov.tt and official social media pages.

