



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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MEDIA RELEASE

ANR ROBINSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT


CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY


“This project is a promise kept.”


This was how the Honourable Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, described yesterday’s contract signing ceremony for the ANR Robinson International Airport Expansion Project, held at the International Departure Gate of the ANR Robinson International Airport in Tobago.


Delivering the event’s Feature Address, Minister Imbert revealed that the two-fold project, which encompasses critical upgrades to the existing Terminal at Crown Point as well as a cutting-edge expansion of the ANR Robinson International Airport, involving a new state-of-the art new Terminal with loading bridges, has been a dream deferred for Tobago’s development, originating during his initial tenure as Minister of Works and Transport in 1992. Though he was able to bring the project to the design stage during his second tenure in that same role, it is only now, 28 years later in the role of Minister of Finance, that he is finally able to express his happiness in serving as “the instrument to give this gift to Tobago” on behalf of, and in fulfilment of the mandate given to him by, the Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley, and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister Imbert was joined in these sentiments by the Honourable Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, who declared the two-year project a

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necessity for Tobago's development and "indispensable to the success of Tobago's tourism industry."

Describing the airbridge as a lifeline for many citizens, he further expressed his expectation that the project would create jobs for Tobagonians, not only during its duration, but also following its completion.

Speaking to the matter of land acquisition, Chairman of the National Infrastructure Development Company (NIDCO), Mr. Herbert George, assured the gathering that landowners will be fairly compensated, noting in particular that the Land Acquisition Act allows the State to compensate them for up to 80% of their property's value. Addressing the media later on, Minister Imbert added that relocated residents are being offered new land at a 75% discount, or a quarter of the price. He further reiterated that the Ministry of Finance has raised \$300 million in financing in support of the land acquisition process.

These encouraging words were followed by a contract signing by representatives of NIDCO and the contracting company, China Railway Construction (Caribbean) Company Limited. More than the mere commencement of a long-overdue project, this contract signing reiterated the Government's commitment to supporting Tobago's tourism industry with the world-class upgrade and expansion of a crucial aspect of the Sister Isle's developmental infrastructure.

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