

## Ministry, THA tour Studley Park

OFFICIALS of the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and Urban Development (DIQUD) of the Tobago House of Assembly held discussions with an executive team of the Ministry of Energy on critical matters geared at advancing Tobago's development.

An official meeting was held at the Division's conference room last month, which was followed by a tour of the Studley Park Quarry and meeting with the management of the Assembly's company, Studley Park Enterprise Ltd (SPEL).

Among the ministry officials present were Energy Minister Dr Roodal Moonilal, permanent secretary Penelope Bradshaw Niles, and Director of Minerals Monty Beharry. They were hosted by Assemblyman Trevor James, Secretary of Infrastructure, Quarries and Urban Development (DIQUD); Assemblyman Terance Baynes, Assistant Secretary; Dianne Baker-Henry, Administrator, and Collis Brown, adviser to the secretary.

'At the meetings, ministry officials gave the commitment to advance the cause of allowing royalties accrued in Tobago to remain in the island for the benefit of Tobago's economy,' DIQUD said in a media release.

'Further, it was noted that ministry is in full support of the Scarborough Redevelopment Project. Therefore, the ministry will facilitate discussions with the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd (NGC) and the DIQUD with respect to the transition of fuel (natural gas) from the Cove Industrial Estate to the Scarborough Port.'

DIQUD stated: 'As it pertains to the mining operation in Tobago, MEEI will give consideration to making the Tobago House of Assembly the licensing authority for quarrying in Tobago.'

It said discussions with the Ministry of Trade and the Ministry of Works will be facilitated to expedite export licences for Studley Park Quarry, as the Government 'recognises the opportunities that will redound to the entire country from the foreign exchange returns'.

It added: 'Overall, the Assembly views the commitments derived from the meeting as signals of an unprecedented spirit of co-operation and collaboration, which bode well for Tobago, Tobagonians and the country at large.'