

Presentation by PDG Stephen Ramroop on the topic "Is T&T ready for a Cat 5 storm?"

PDG Stephen said that the question he posed may have an obvious answer however it forces us to think about the preparation and strategies needed for any disaster relief effort in this country. He spoke about T&T nationals being some of the most philanthropic in the world and that it is this nature that speaks of strength, perseverance and resiliency will help us whenever a disaster may strike.

He said we need to look at three levels in society to see measure the state of readiness of the response as follows:

- Public and Government
- Private and Business Sector
- Civil Society (such as Churches and Rotary)

One of the ways Rotary can help is by being its brother's keeper and a simple step is by assisting the Government to help map out communities in terms of knowing who is the neediest cases should a disaster strike such as a family with many young children, an elderly person living alone or even someone who is handicapped. With this knowledge readily available before a disaster strike, it will help tremendously with the disaster relief response as it will be easier to identify who will need additional assistance to the neighbourhood shelters and also who may have been resistant to use the shelters and may opt to stay at home.

We also can play a part in sensitization of the response efforts available, what resources are available and this can be done on a community level.

PDG Stephen's very personal presentation was enjoyed by all and led into a very interactive Q&A session which was guided by Sergeant Joseph

Rtn Kelly was invited to give the vote of thanks on behalf of our Club and presented PDG Stephen with our Club pennant.