**CARILED WORKSHOP (November 20-21, 2014) REPORT**

**Port of Spain, Trinidad**

The Cariled workshop was held on November 20-21 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and attended by Mayor Angela Brown Burke representing KSAC and Councillor Audrey Smith-Facey representing ALGAJ.

The aim of the workshop was to have participating local governments from across the region and Canada to share their experiences in promoting and supporting local economic development. It looked at the history of Local Government and the current status including pending reform. The presentation on Jamaica was delivered by Mr. Keith Miller.

The meeting agreed that Local Government is ideally placed to play a critical role of coordination among the disparate entities in the thrust to put local economic development as a major plank in the sustainable development of our communities. Best practices that were discussed included making strategic decisions regarding priorities that are aligned with the national vision; identifying quick wins that are steps towards achieving longer term goals. An important lesson from the discussion is that local economic development is local: meaning that it is driven by what is done in a locale and not necessarily by developing an economic sector..

A major issue discussed was the financial constraints and the need for Mayors to collaborate with other entities; also discussed was how to make our effort sustainable beyond the CARILED Project. It was also noted that at this stage there was very little financial support but that more could be done with the available technical support.

It is expected that Local Government would use the discussion as a foundation to determine its next steps. For KSAC some of those steps would be:

* A shared vision and LED strategy of the parish
* A parish structure to lead our efforts at LED
* Consensus on an integrated LED progamme
* Identification of quick win projects