

**\*PRESS RELEASE \***

**\*Earthworks underway at Soubise \***

Earthworks to prepare road and drainage alignments at the Human Settlement site at Soubise are underway.

The main road within the seven-acre site has been excavated, while excavation of the access roads to the residential plots is underway.

The earthworks, which began in February and are scheduled for completion in May, are designed to ensure erosion is minimized during the rainy season. To this end, the roads are contoured to the slopes of the site. As a result, the roads along the inclines are tapered against the slopes to control storm water runoff.

Additionally, where possible, the road alignments are designed around rock outcrops and trees, as a concerted effort has been made to retain as much of the natural vegetation as possible.

"We want to ensure the roads are allowed to caress the valleys and curve on the slopes in such a way to be sensitive to the contour lines and therefore to allow for drainage patterns and sewerage to utilize easier gradients and to allow for gravity flows," ARD Human Settlement Specialist Mr. Ivan Laughlin explained during a site visit on Tuesday.

Contracts for the infrastructural works at Soubise, as well as a Human Settlement at Mt. Gay, were awarded in November 2006 to China Jiangsu Construction Group Corporation of the Peoples Republic of China, while the consulting engineer is Gleans Construction and Engineering Co. Ltd.

The settlement at Soubise is expected to provide approximately 100 homes, comprising single units, duplexes, town houses and apartments. In the first instance, 17 fishing families living in vulnerable conditions in Soubise will be accommodated.

The infrastructural works are part of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Sites and Services Project, which involves a \$2.23 million EC contract for infrastructural development at Soubise and a \$2.28 million EC contract for Mt. Gay. The funds are provided from the Inter American Development Bank through a Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) loan to the Government of Grenada.

The CDB Sites and Services Project is coordinated by a Project Steering Committee with ARD appointed by the CDB as Project Coordinator. The Committee includes representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Social Development, housing Authority of Grenada, Physical Planning Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Lands and Surveys Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries.

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