



Remarks

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox
Minister of Social Development and Family Services

**Distribution of Appointment Letters Inter-Ministerial
Research Council(IMRC)**

Head Office
CL Financial Building
St. Vincent Street
Port-of-Spain

Tuesday July 12, 2022

2pm

SALUTATIONS

- Permanent Secretaries of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Ms. Jacqueline Johnson and Ms. Sheila Seecharan
- Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Ms. Jasmine Pascal and Ms. Wendy Guy-Hernandez
- Head of Department and Staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
- Members of the Inter-Ministerial Research Council
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

It is an honour for me to meet with you this afternoon and to offer my Congratulations as newly appointed members of the Inter-Ministerial Research Council (IMRC).

The IMRC continues to play a pivotal role in the achievement of the Government's National Development Strategy 2016-2030 (Vision 2030) as it stands poised to promote the formal and systematic sharing of data across government ministries and other key stakeholder bodies. Furthermore, the IMRC is instrumental to advancing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Agenda towards evidenced-based and data-driven development across the Public Sector.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services has, as part of its mandate, the responsibility for social sector development planning, social research, and policy formulation, in the delivery of social services. Hence, the social research component of this mandate is mainly delivered through the Inter-Ministerial Research Council.

In recent times, such research has become even more vital and critical in keeping abreast of the challenges confronting the poor and vulnerable by utilising innovative research methodologies.

As such, it was deemed necessary by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to sanction the reconstitution and renewal of the Inter-Ministerial Research Council for a 4th Term. This Council is expected to work towards:

1. developing and overseeing the implementation of the Social Sector Research Agenda;
2. conducting an environmental scan of the Social Sector to determine critical research gaps;
3. developing and maintaining a database of social research;
4. establishing a Social Sector Research Information System for sharing of information;

5. strengthening the internal capacity of research units within the Social Sector;
6. facilitating the nexus between research and policy;
and
7. developing strategic partnerships between the public and private sectors and civil society, for research purposes.

I sincerely hope that this new term will be characterised by strategic and optimal implementation and demonstrate even greater determination to facilitate the timely delivery of projects, when its Work Plan is finalised.

The Inter-Ministerial Research Council would be expected to continue coordinating research activities across the social sector and providing technical inputs and advice on key social projects being undertaken by social sector ministries and agencies. In this regard, it is anticipated that the Council will be able to:

1. Finalise the Social Research Agenda for the Social Sector;
2. Publish a Quarterly Research Bulletin; and
3. Establish and maintain a database of research in the social sector.

It is also my understanding that the Council began working on some key projects during its last term, which I expect to be fully completed in the near future. I eagerly look forward to the reports of your progress.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services will also be embarking upon several projects in the coming months.

These include:

- National Poverty Reduction Strategy;
- National Register of Vulnerable Persons;
- National Socio-Economic Indicators Database;
- Community Therapeutic Survey;
- COVID 19 Study;

- National Disability Assessment; and
- Strengthening of the Standardised Means Test.

We look forward to the input, encouragement and continued partnership with this Inter-Ministerial Research Council.

As I close, I take this opportunity to offer my full support to the IMRC and wish you all a successful and productive tenure.

I thank you!