

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVCIES

DIVISION OF AGEING

TREASURED CITIZENS OF

TRINDAD & TOBAGO 2022

National Centenarian Programme



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

Highlighting our Centenarians 2022

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services relaunched its Centenarian Programme in 2021, to recognize and honour citizens who achieved the milestone of 100 years and more. Since then, the Ministry has paid tribute to eighty-eight (88) centenarians across multiple locations in Trinidad and Tobago.

We at the Ministry believe that not only are our centenarians a living linkage to our past, but to have lived this long is a privilege both for themselves, their families and their communities. We hold firm to the view that growing older is a precious treasure that takes shape in the journey of every man and woman's life, whatever their origins, background, economic or social conditions. It is for this reason that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago appreciates and lauds the spirit, inspiration, and endurance represented by our nation's oldest citizens.

In 2022, we took the opportunity to highlight some of the nuggets of their wisdom our centenarians have acquired over the years, wisdom





which has guided their lives, and which they have shared with us during our celebrations in their honour.

Mr. Joseph Maynard (Age 101)

"Be respectful, peaceful, loving and kind"

Ms. Phyllis Gregoria Marshall (Age 100)

"Live well with everyone, smile, and stay positive."

Mr. Ivan Medonca (Age 104)

"Do everything in moderation and always keep the belief and faith in God"

As we celebrate our centenarians, I encourage everyone to prioritize the care of older persons. Report elder abuse, whether financial, physical, sexual, or verbal. Our seniors deserve to be treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. Let us therefore work together to ensure that is a daily reality.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains dedicated to enhancing the lives of our elderly in general, and our centenarians in particular. We will continue to develop and implement initiatives to help, empower and transform the lives of those who have served our families, communities and society so faithfully – they are the jewels of our society.

God Bless you all!







Mrs Lenor Baptiste-Simmons PERMANENT SECRETARY

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Recognition of Centenarians

The Ministry's National Centenarians Programme serves as an opportunity to celebrate and honour those who have reached the age of 100 and over.

Currently, there is increasing evidence that the world's population is ageing. In fact, according to the United Nations, the share of the global population aged 65 and older is projected to rise from 10 percent in 2022 to 16 percent in 2050. Further to this, the United Nations also stated that today there are over 500,000 centenarians worldwide.

Locally, the Elections and Boundaries Commission of Trinidad and Tobago indicated that as of June 2022, there are approximately one thousand, six hundred and eighty-seven (1,687) centenarians in the country.

Hence, with increasing numbers of persons attaining this milestone nationally, the Ministry deemed it necessary to acknowledge and celebrate our centenarians who have contributed to the success of our nation and remains committed to enhancing the lives of these stalwarts.

It would be remiss of me if gratitude was not expressed to our partners in this initiative namely, the Kiss Baking Company, National Agricultural Marketing Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO), E-Style Cash & Carry, No Youth Left Behind, the University of the West Indies (UWI), College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), Ultrapharm Marketing and the Ministry of Health.







Dr. Hyacinth Blake

Director of the Division of Ageing

On December 13, 2021, the Honourable Minister of Social Development and Family Services commissioned the relaunch of the National Centenarian Programme through the Division of Ageing (DOA).

Since that time, the DOA, in collaboration with other departments of the Ministry and key stakeholders had the privilege of honouring our nation's esteemed centenarians who have chosen to be part of this initiative.

In December 2022, the Ministry commenced issuing a specially curated medal to our centenarians, and the first pinning ceremony was held on 23 December 2022 to recognise Ms. Una Lardy (aka Tanty Una) who celebrated her 111th birthday on Christmas Day.

It is indeed inspiring to meet our centenarians, and to hear and capture their words of wisdom and messages of encouragement. It was heart warming to hear from them, especially given the challenges associated with the COVID19 pandemic which increased mortality rates of older persons across the globe.

It is heart-warming to note that several of our centenarians survived the pandemic, and thrived throughout their life's journey so that they are now beacons of hope to us all on how to live long, healthy and fulfilling lives.

While each of their stories vary, the fact that they have crossed the significant milestone of 100 years attests to their resilience. We look forward to celebrating with more centenarians and their families (who I fondly refer to as 'centenarians-to-be') in 2023, and encourage those who have not yet registered for the programme, to do so once they have attained the age of 99 years and over.







NATIONAL CENTENARIAN PROGRAMME

Medal Distribution

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox distributes commemorative medals to centenarians honoured under the Ministry's relaunched National Centenarian Programme (NCP). The medal features an antique gold design reminiscent of the deep sense of reverence, compassion and generosity that are traditionally associated with older persons. The medal features a red, white and black ribbon to signify its uniqueness to Trinidad and Tobago. Each medal is also engraved with the centenarian's full name and date of birth.



Ms. Naomi Rogers Age 104



Ms. Elmira Solomon Age 101



Ms. Paulina Chotalal Age 100



NATIONAL CENTENARIAN PROGRAMME

Medal Distribution



Ms. Ira Kitson Age 100



Mr. Everest Hastick Age 102



Una Lardy Age 111



Programme Honourees

NO.	CENTENARIAN	
1.		
2.		

NAME / DOB ELDICA SPARKS 01/01/1916

AGE 106

"Close relationship with God, good habits, good friends, and healthy meals."

ANNIE NELSON 13/01/1916

100

"You now come and you just come and you gone already."

3.

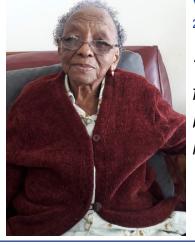


DORA GIBBONS 24/01/1922

"Prayers, faith, and having an active lifestyle." 106







"Eating green food and being honest."

5. STELLA ARMOUR
05/02/1920
"Faith and trust in God."

6. JUANITA ALEXANDER
08/02/1922



KENRICK BYRON 101 12/02/1922

" A comfortable life."

"The Master above!"



7.

NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
8.		SYBIL WILSON	100
		14/02/1922	
		"Eat good food and take good rest!"	
9.		SYBIL PHILLIP	102
		16/02/1920	
		"Love and passion for the Lord."	
10.		IVY NASIB	100
		18/02/1922	
		"Maintaining a healthy diet for my physical well- being, good mind, and relationship with God."	
11.		HAKIM "WILLIAM" MOHAMMED	100
		26/02/1922	
		"Love, kindness and generosity."	
12.	ALCOHOLD THE STATE OF THE STATE	ADINA BENT	105
	Constitute of However and Auth	07/03/1917	
	Since 2011		



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
13.		OLIVE MELVILLE	100
		09/03/1922	
		"The Lord as He has kept me and gave me peace."	
		3	
14.		MATILDA CHARLES 14/03/1919	103
		14/03/1313	
		"Whatever is easy to come is hard to go. Stay out of	
		trouble."	
15.	th	DOROTHY LEWIS 16/03/1922	100
	· Pict /	10/03/1922	
	. Distagray	"Whatever is easy to come is hard to go. Stay out of	
		trouble."	
16.		BASOO AJODHA 17/03/1921	101
		"Light walks, planting since childhood is the secret."	
			10.1
17.	K X THE AT	NAOMI ROGERS 22/03/1918	104
	PART	"Exercise rest and healthy	
		foods."	



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
18.		LEONA ESMAY ROBERTS	100
	Cordens of the state of the sta	23/03/1922	
		"It's in my genes. My mum died just before her 102nd birthday."	
19.	Pic All	YUSSUF MOHAMMED	105
		25/03/1917	
		"Family genetics is the secret."	
20.		EUGENIA BLIZZARD	101
		27/03/1921	
		"The younger generation should pray and trust in God."	
21.	100 UN	JOHN GOMEZ 30/03/1920	102
	Control of the second	"I live a happy life with God	
		in unity, peace, love, and respect."	
22.		VERONICA	100
		VERNETT-HINDS	
		08/04/1922	
		"Always prayer"	

Programme Honourees

NO. CENTENARIAN

23.



NAME / DOB

BATCHEE MAHABIR 10/04/1919

"I work hard."

AGE

103

103

100

24.



MAY POLLARD

17/04/1919

"Do good to people, your mother, your brother, your friends. Have no enemies."

25.



SR. MARIE THERESE RETOUT

23/04/1922

"I feel happy and honoured to live to make it to one hundred years."



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
26.		HECTOR SIMEON	103
		08/04/1919	
		"Every grade you make in school should have a	
	Continued of Manual Additional Ad	programme to teach about God otherwise it's no use."	
		God otherwise it's no use.	
27.		RATTANEE PERSAD	102
		09/04/1920	
		"No idling, be productive. Education is important and	
		prayers."	
28.		THEODORA GEORGE	100
		29/04/1922	
		"If He say so, I can't say	
		no, because He is one that have me here. He has kept	
		me."	
29.		CARMELITE GAY	101
		03/05/1921	
		"Putting God first and	
		eating the right foods are the keys to longevity."	
30.		ENID NOEL	100
		08/05/1922	
		"I have a relationship with	
		him and here is where I am	
		going to stay."	
	A		



S- DATE DINGS

CENTENARIAN -

Programme Honourees

			And the second
NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
31.		PHYLLIS GREGORIA MARSHALL 08/05/1922 "Live well with everyone, smile, and stay positive."	100
32.		MICHEALEN (ELAINE) SQUIRES 13/05/1922 "I pray four times a day to Jesus because He is our Judge."	100
33.		ELMIRA SOLOMON 08/02/1922 "Pay attention to your parents. Take pride in yourself and don't make anyone make you do what you do not want to do."	100
34.		GRACE JOB 15/05/1922 "Behave yourselves, do not let your mother talk too	100



much, obey your parents."

NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
35.		MURIEL MOORE 20/05/1920	102
		"If the younger generation wants to live a long and prosperous life, they should respect their parents and have more faith in God."	
36.	10.V.5%	MARY KOPING	100
		27/05/1922	
		"Hard work, keep active and eat healthy especially local food."	
37.		VIOLET CAMBRIDGE	100
		28/05/1922	
		"Hard work and faith in God."	
38.		HUBERT LEWIS	102
		03/06/1920	
		"Living righteously and living a clean and pure life."	
39.		PRINCE AYRES	102
		03/06/1920	
		"Trust in God."	

TO CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF

NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
40.		JOHN DUFEAL 06/06/1922	100
	PTHDA TO THE TOTAL	"Serve God when you are young and He will be faithful to you."	
41.		DONALD JOHNSON	103
		07/06/1919	
		"The mercy of Almighty God, hard labour and good natural foods are the secrets to longevity."	
42.		IRVING JOSEPH 17/06/1915	107
		"Putting God first, hard work and spending quality time with loved ones."	
43.	MANAGER	ZITA ALLONG	100
		17/06/1922	
		"Living closely to God, not worrying and flowing with life are the keys to my longevity."	
44.		IVAN MENDONCA	104
		23/06/1918	
	Comment of the Commen	"Everything in moderation."	



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
45.		PAULINA CHOTALAL	100
		26/06/1922	
		"Jesus is my secret to longevity."	
46.		NEVILLE DE LANDRO	100
40.		NEVILLE DE LANDRO 26/06/1922	100
		"Be humble, listen to those in authority and prioritise	
		pursuing an education."	
47.		ALFRED LIVERPOOL	100
		30/06/1922	
		"Eliminate junk foods from your diet."	
		year area	
48.		RITA OCTAVIA CHARLES	106
		01/07/1916	
		"Give God the honour	
		and praise in everything that you do and always	
		do things for others with a	
		grateful heart".	
49.		DORIS JULIANA PHILLIP 01/07/1922	100
		"I have no secret to	
		longevity but does enjoy an easy-going, humble and	
		simple life."	

Programme Honourees



NO. **CENTENARIAN**



NAME / DOB **JULIA VALENTINE** AGE

104

100

102

02/07/1918

"Faith in God and good natural local food."

51.

50.



JANET SLINGER

09/07/1922

"Live good with people, eat well, pray and do not make confusion."

52.



VIOLA BLACKMAN

11/07/2022

"Prayer & hard work."



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
53.		MARGARET RIVAS	104
		20/07/1918	
		"I worked hard. Hard, hard, hard."	
54.		MELCINA NOERIGA	104
		21/07/1918	
		"Hard work, daily	
		prayer, going to church, drinking coffee and	
		minding my business is	
		the secret to longevity."	
55.		IVY WILLIAMS 23/07/1922	100
		"Prayer and humility."	
56.		LLOYD KELLMAN	102
	MI GO I	23/07/1920	
		"Hereditary."	
57.		EILLEEN TELESFORD	102
	ME 3/11/	26/07/1920	
		"Consuming home-	
		grown food and going	
		to church."	





ETHEL SWANN



06/08/1922

"By the grace of God and it is also part of my genes."



THELMA CLARKE

100

100

"Fear of God, good food

and ground provisions."

07/08/1922



CARL SAYERS ROGERS

101

104

10/08/1921

"I try to stay healthy by exercising constantly."

61.

58.



DA COSTA DARLINGTON MC DONALD

13/08/1918

"Persons must learn to take things easy and be humble."



NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
62.		AUGUSTINE BLEASDELL 16/08/1922 "Respect old people."	100
63.	I AM 101 YEAR OLD TOOM AUGUST 19 THE AUGUST	JOSEPH MAYNARD 19/08/1921 "Being respectful, peaceful, loving and kind."	101
64.		ISLA NANTON 25/08/1922 "I live a happy life with God. Once persons do the right thing, they will too."	100
65.		AMANDA REYES 26/08/1918 "My advice is to live a loving and kind life."	104



Programme Honourees





66.



RAMDOOLARIE POONOON 15/09/1922

"I take pleasure in everything I do. I have a good attitude to life and is very playful."

102

67.



NELLIE WILLIAMS

06/09/1920

"Peace of mind and a good heart are the keys to longevity."

101

68.



LENA CHARLES 23/09/1921

"A close relationship with the Lord."



NO. **CENTENARIAN** 69.

NAME / DOB

25/09/1917

AGE OLGA SCOTT 105

"Beer, cucumbers and aloes everyday"

70.



DULAR SOOKLAL

100

04/10/1922

"My longevity diet is because of my upbringing"

71.



BABY SAHADALLIE

100

14/01/1922

"A pure heart and being good to people."

Programme Honourees



NAME / DOB **AGE**

72.



HYACINTH MANNETTE-**AUGUSTUS**

16/08/1922

"Firstly God!!!!"

73.



IRA KITSON

100

100

15/09/1922

"Don't Let anyone take advantage of you. Always know your own self-worth"

74.



ALFREDO GEORGE

102

20/10/1020

"Give Him (God) praise."



Programme Honourees

NO. CENTENARIAN
75.

NAME / DOB

AGE

VERNON ANNISETTE 23/10/1916

"Inherited good genes, it is the secret to longevity" 106

76.



WINNIFRED JOHN 27/10/1922 100

"God is my guide."

77.



PETER DELYSIA 30/10/1920

102

"Eating ground provisions such as dasheen, salt fish, and smoked herring"



TRANSPORTER

CENTENARIAN Programme Honourees

NO.	CENTENARIAN	NAME / DOB	AGE
78.	MARIE	NORMA DRAKES 31/10/1919	103
		"Good food, home- grown chicken and food eaten straight from the ground."	
79.		ELARIA THEMA	100
		BELCON	
		01/11/1922	
		"I eat everything and	
		especially love wild	
	Continue of those and additional at The Continue of the Contin	meat"	
80.		MARIE-NETTA	101
		MC LEAN	
		13/11/1921	
		"Secret to longevity? Prayer!"	
81.	Contraction (Contraction (Contr		100
	Certhote of Hotes and Advanced	POTTYIA MAHADEO 13/11/1922	



"Work hard, eat no meat,

take no worries."

NO. CENTENARIAN

82.



NAME / DOB
CEPHAS DUNCAN
27/11/1922

"To achieve 100, I encourage all persons to love the Almighty and live a clean and happy life."

83.



ELVIRA THOMPSON

29/11/1919

"Go to church and say your prayers." 103

AGE

100

Programme Honourees



NO. 84.



CENTENARIAN

CYRIL JOHN 07/12/1914

NAME / DOB

"Key to longevity? Ask God,"

85.



HERMAN GRIFFITH 09/12/1920

"Love the Lord and serve Him, honour your mother and father, eat healthy foods and don't drink alcohol."

86.



EVEREST HASTICK 16/12/1920

"Eating good foods such as coo-coo, breadfruit, dasheen and fish." 102

102

AGE

108



Programme Honourees



87.



NAME / DOB VERONICA JONES 16/12/1922 **AGE**

100

111

"The secret to longevity is eating the right food like provision and serving God."

88.



UNA LARDY 25/12/1911

"Eat fresh food from the land. Eat plenty coconut, fish, corn. Coconut water is tonic."

Dearly Departed

We honour those who registered for the Programme but departed this life before recognition.

AMELIA NARINE	10/05/1921
LAURENCIA LOCARIO	04/07/1918
CYRILLA THOMAS	13/07/1922
CECIL FELIX LEWIS	27/07/1919
CARMEL HOLLINGSWORTH	26/08/1921
IVY HARRYNARINE	25/08/1920
NESTA PATRICK	29/08/1922
ROSIE RAMJOHN	30/08/1981
VIO SEALES	29/10/1922
BEATRICE HINKSON	07/12/1919
DORIS SCARBOROUGH	21/12/1922

LIST OF ACTIVITIES for 2023

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) - June 15th



world Elder Abuse Awareness Day is commemorated globally on June 15 and is observed as a day where people unite to stand against the abuse and suffering experienced by older persons worldwide (UN, 2021).

United Nations International Day of Older Persons - October 1st



United Nations International Day of Older Persons is celebrated annually on the 1st October. It is a significant occasion to celebrate older persons and to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges of ageing populations worldwide.



LIST OF ACTIVITIES for 2023

National Centenarian's Day - September 22



National Centenarian's Day observed annually on September 22 recognizes and honours those who have achieved the milestone age of 100 years and older.

National Centenarian Programme



The Ministry's National Centenarian Programme continues for 2023 where older persons who are 100 years and older are recognized for their contributions to the development of Trinidad and Tobago.



SERVICES — for Older Persons

The Ministry's Division of Ageing (DOA) provides services and support to the ageing population of Trinidad and Tobago. Focus is placed on ageing initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago and on educating and sensitising key stakeholders and the general public on ageing issues, as well as enhancing the quality of life of older persons.

Functions, initiatives and services provided by the DOA:

- Developing standards of care for Homes for Older Persons and compliance with set standards;
- Monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the National Policy on Ageing;
- Organizing and coordinating training programmes, seminars and workshops for care providers of older persons;
- Developing and implementing programmes and projects for the benefit of older persons;
- Conducting research on matters pertaining to ageing and older persons;
- Conducting nationwide public sensitization programmes on ageing issues;
- Operating an Older Persons Information Centre (Help Desk) to provide information on products and services available to older persons;
- Recognising and appreciating Older Persons via the Centenarian Programme;
- Facilitating placement of vulnerable older persons into Homes for Older Persons' who require this service; and
- Networking with social-sector Ministries, the private sector, and civil society to develop and coordinate the implementation of the National Plan of Action on Ageing.



SERVICES — for Older Persons

Services provided by the Division of Ageing include:

Older Persons Information Centre:

The Older Persons Information Centre (OPIC) serves as a referral mechanism within the Division of Ageing, linking older people to key services available to them through both public and private agencies. Through OPIC, the following are provided:

- Information about Homes for the Older Persons;
- Information and joint agency action on elder abuse mitigation;
- Referral to relevant state agencies that provide care support to older persons;
- Access to Caregivers and other similar services;
- Information on legislation related to older persons; and
- Contact information for services related to older persons.

Subvented Homes for Older Persons:

Six Homes for Older Persons provide shelter for older people who were displaced, had no relatives, or needed community care. These are operated and managed by NGOs supported by Government subventions.

Community Care Programme (CCP):

The CCP facilitates the placement of vulnerable older persons aged 55 years and over including those who have been medically discharged from public health institutions and are in need of continued support. They are placed into Homes for Older Persons in the community that provide congregate living accommodation with suitable care, once the older person meets the relevant criteria for inclusion in the programme.





SOCIAL WELFARE DIVISION Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Senior Citizens' Pension

This grant provides financial assistance to eligible older persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Who Qualifies:

- Age Persons sixty-five (65) years and over
- Residence Applicants must be ordinarily resident in Trinidad and Tobago for twenty (20) years preceding the date of application. Any periods of absence must not total more than five (5) years during the twenty (20) years preceding the application

OR

- The applicant must be residing in Trinidad and Tobago for at least fifty (50) years. N.B. (These 50 years do not need to be consecutive)
- Income Applicant's monthly income must not exceed \$5,500 TTD per month

Payment Schedule

Senior Citizens' Monthly Pension Maximum - \$3,500.00

Income not exceeding \$2500 receives \$3500

Income exceeding \$2,500 but not exceeding \$3,500.00 receives \$2,500.00

Income exceeding \$3,500 but not exceeding \$4,500.00 receives \$1,500.00

Income exceeding \$4,500 but not exceeding \$5,500.00 receives \$500.00



SERVICES — for Older Persons

Special Achievers Grant (SAG)

The SAG provides support to persons who made significant contribution to the development of Trinidad and Tobago and who were experiencing severe financial hardship. Support in the areas of health, housing and income is provided. A Special Achiever is considered to be a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago whose record of services and/or performance is publicly distinguishable, as an extraordinary contribution to national development and/or raises the international profile of the country.

SOCIAL DISPLACEMENT

a. Relocation of Elderly Street Dwellers Programme

Under this initiative, older persons (55 and over) are relocated to Homes for Older Persons where they will receive relevant special care. Elderly street dwellers must meet the relevant eligibility criteria for this initiative. The Ministry subsidises monthly payments for those clients who have no income or payment is borne by both the client and the Ministry for those in receipt of grants from the Ministry.

Notables:

• Disability Assistance Grant (Adults): The Disability Assistance

SERVICES for Older Persons

Grant is paid to citizens and legal residents of Trinidad and Tobago who are medically certified as being permanently disabled and cannot be employed. The grant can be accessed by persons over age the 18 who have been certified by a Government medical officer as having a permanent disability and as a consequence cannot earn a livelihood. When this person reaches the age of 65, they can then apply for Senior Citizens' Pension once they meet the criterion.

Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)

The Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) falls under the purview of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS). It is an intensive short-term intergenerational training programme, which aims to inculcate discipline, impart knowledge and promote a sense of caring for the elderly among cohorts between the ages of 17 – 35. GAPP responds to and addresses the growing and complex needs of Trinidad and Tobago's ageing population through the provision of geriatric care and companionship services.

For more information, please visit https://www.mydns.gov.tt/about-us/



E Style Cash and Carry



Ultrapharm Marketing Limited (UltraPharm)



Kiss Baking Company



Regional Health Authorities, Ministry of Health



No Youth Left Behind



COSTAATT



NAMDEVCO



UWI Photography



A
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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
AND EDUCATION UNIT
AND THE DIVISION OF AGEING
OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND
FAMILY SERVICES.

