

# Social Development Ministry distributes 0.8M in SEED Grants

## Poverty Spoken Word Winners Awarded



Minister Cox, executive, staff and SEED grant recipients pose for a photo following the distribution held on June 17, 2024.

Fifty-six (56) individuals under the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' (MSDFS) Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme received

funding valued at Seven Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-Two Dollars and Ten Cents (\$791,292.10) to either initiate or expand their selected micro-enterprises.



Minister Cox presents Ms. Tsehali Ollivierre with her first place trophy.

The distribution was held on Monday 17th June, 2024, at a joint distribution ceremony for the MSDFS' SEED Programme and Spoken Word Competition. The ceremony was held at the Central Diego Martin Community Centre. Delivering the feature address, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox indicated that both initiatives have their genesis in the Ministry's own mandate to ensure that

no one is left behind, and that every single citizen is provided with the means through which they can enhance their quality of life.

Remarking on the SEED Programme, Minister Cox underscored the significance of the SEED Programme, further emphasizing the Government's steadfast commitment to fostering innovation and economic resilience. She further highlighted that while the entrepreneurship journey may be familiar to some, it represents an exciting opportunity for entrepreneurs as they expand their ventures or launch new initiatives. "Today marks an exciting milestone as recipients embark on their journey



Minister Cox presents Mr. Nigel Deonarine of Ariaponics Ltd with his SEED package.

into various entrepreneurial ventures. From clothing sales to condiment manufacturing, farming to catering and even the operation of a mini-mart, salon and spa. We have a diverse array of businesses represented here, all made possible through the Ministry's SEED Grant. This support to fifty-six (56) individuals to either initiate or expand their selected micro-business enterprises amounts to a total of Seven Hundred-and-Ninety-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-Two Dollars and Ten Cents (\$791,292.10)."

Highlighting the Spoken Word Competition, Minister Cox told attendees that the Spoken Word competition was

heavily subscribed receiving thirty-nine (39) spoken word poetry videos from participants belonging to twenty (20) schools and youth organizations located across Trinidad and Tobago.

Ms. Tsehali Ollivierre, Ms. Colette Boyce, Ms. Antonia Graham, Ms. Kelisa Athanas and Mr. Kaliq Cook placed in the top five of the competition.

Fourteen-year-old Tsehali Ollivierre of Bishops High School, Tobago placed first in the competition with Ms. Colette Boyce and Ms. Antonia Graham both of St. Joseph's Convent San Fernando placing second and third respectively.



Minister Cox, serving as a judge for the Beauty With A Purpose segment of the Miss World T&T competition, poses a question to the delegates.

Fifty years ago, the Beauty With A Purpose segment was established to motivate young women to create or support significant charitable causes, emphasizing that the pageant transcends mere beauty and intelligence.

On June 19, 2024, Minister of Social Development and

Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, participated as one of the esteemed panelists judging this segment of the Miss World Trinidad and Tobago competition where seventeen delegates presented on causes close to their hearts as they vied

## Minister Cox lauds Charitable Initiatives at Beauty With A Purpose Segment of Miss World T&T

for the esteemed title of Miss World Trinidad and Tobago.

Delivering remarks as the judges' representative, Minister Cox told the delegates, supporters and other attendees that each "Beauty with a Purpose" project presented by the seventeen (17) delegates clearly embodies what the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services stands for: helping, empowering, and transforming lives. "From projects that support families and persons with disabili-

ties, to initiatives that promote the protection of the environment and our furry friends, I am deeply proud as Minister of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services.

Our mission is to coordinate the government's delivery of essential, high-quality social services, and these projects align perfectly with our goals," said the Minister. She further added that she looks forward to seeing the projects make a significant impact on the national

landscape, contributing to the betterment of Trinidad and Tobago.

Miss Pax Vale, Anna-Lise Nanton was eventually crowned the winner of the 2024 Miss World Trinidad and Tobago competition on Sunday 23rd June, 2024.

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