

Social Development Distributes \$3.5M in Home Repair Grants

Three million, four hundred and four thousand, seven hundred and ninety-seven dollars and fifty-two cents (\$3,404,797.52) in Home Repair Grants were distributed for fiscal 2024 under the Ministry's National Social Development Programme.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services hosted a brief distribution ceremony on Wednesday, 11 September 2024, at the Port of Spain City Corporation to present letters of approval to some of the beneficiaries. During her feature address, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, indicated that the programme is an instrumental component of



Minister Cox, joined by recipients take a photo following the distribution of Home Repair Grants on September 11, 2024 at the Port Spain City Hall.

the Ministry's plan to ensure that poor and vulnerable citizens throughout the country reside under habitable conditions. For fiscal 2024, approximately \$3.5 million will be distributed to beneficiaries. She also highlighted that a

significant portion of this funding will be allocated to disaster victims. Additionally, she encouraged persons to take advantage of the available counselling and psychosocial support, emphasizing the importance of mental health sup-

port following a disaster. The Minister further stated that adequate housing is listed as Goal number 3 in the Government's Vision 2030 for the development of this country which specifies that the Government will increase the number of

households to benefit from the Home Improvement Grants to 1500 annually, increase the number of Home Improvement Subsidies to 650 annually and increase the number of New Home Subsidies to 1000 annually.

Minister Cox extends congratulations to 2024 Chevening scholars Reyad Mohammed and Nestor Garcia



(L-R) Deputy British High Commissioner Victoria White, Reyad Mohammed, Nestor Garcia (2024 Chevening Scholars) and Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services.

“Make use of every opportunity to learn and network. Commit to making a difference when you return. May you succeed academically and as Chevening professionals in your field of study,” said Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, during the Chevening Reception for two of the country's latest recipients, Mr. Reyad Mohammed and Mr. Nestor

Garcia. The event was held on Thursday, 12th September 2024, by the British High Commission and also celebrated the return of the 2023 scholarship recipients, Ms. Sache Alexander-George, who pursued an MSc in Digital Entrepreneurship at Loughborough University, and Mr. Jessel Crispin Brizian, who studied Fashion Business Management at the University of Westminster. During her remarks,

Minister Cox noted that as a Chevening scholar herself, she deeply valued the knowledge and experience gained from the opportunity. Minister Cox further extended gratitude to British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Harriet Cross, for the invaluable opportunities the continued diplomatic relations provide for the advancement of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.



Victor Solorzano
Age - 103



Rosalind Gentle
Age - 100



Monteith Saunders
Age - 100

National Centenarian Programme
continues