



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

### MEDIA RELEASE

March 16, 2020

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

#### Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf Parents Teachers Association Meetings

The Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf held its Parents Teachers Association Meeting on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 at the school compound in Gopaul Lands, Marabella.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, on invitation, was pleased to participate in this initiative as it assisted the Ministry to further achieve its mandate to help, empower and transform lives of individuals. The Ministry's Public Information, Education and Sensitization team was able to provide a wealth of knowledge to parents about the grants and services offered and how one can go about accessing and applying for the services. Parents were also informed of the Standard Means Test and got the opportunity to ask questions for a better understanding and appreciation of how the assessment process works.

“If you are not happy with the services being rendered to you at the front desk of a Social Welfare office, ask to speak to a supervisor, it is your right!” were words of advice by Mr Kalipersad Jaichand Social Welfare Advisor II. Mr Jaichand presented a very informative, engaging and transparent account of the social welfare grants, inclusive of the new disability Assistance Grant designed for children under the age of eighteen years. Most parents and teachers were grateful for this segment.

Ms Asenath Mc Ewen from the Disability Affairs Unit (DAU) also encouraged parents to be advocates for the rights and inclusion of their children despite their disability. She also provided insight into the many services the DAU provides such as providing technical support and referral for persons with disabilities, implementation of programmes that empower persons with disabilities and sensitising and increasing the public awareness of issues pertaining to persons with disabilities.

Ms Veronica John, Principal of the Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf expressed her satisfaction and gratitude to the Ministry for their presence and stated that she looks forward to continued collaboration and partnership towards empowering persons with disabilities.

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**Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf: Mr Kalipersad Jaichand Social Welfare Advisor II addresses a concern of a parent at the Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf**



**Audrey Jeffers School for the Deaf:** Ms Asenath Mc Ewen from the Disability Affairs Unit addresses parents at the Audrey Jeffery School for the Deaf.