



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday February 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRIORITY: HIGH

Help is Available says Minister Robinson-Regis....Please reach out

Monday February 10, 2020 --- Minister of Social Development and Family Services, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis today appealed to persons who find themselves unable to cope with their life situations to seek out the help that is readily available. She noted that the ability to acknowledge the need for help is a sign of strength and not weakness, and extended her appeal to families and friends of troubled persons, to avail themselves of the opportunities for assistance provided by the Ministry.

Minister Robinson-Regis was at the time expressing condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Michael Maynard and his daughter, Makisha, both of whom died yesterday. It is alleged that Mr. Maynard committed suicide after realising that he had fatally beaten his daughter. Speaking at the Ministry's Head Office earlier today, Minister Robinson-Regis confirmed that the Ministry's National Family Services had already begun the process of contacting the family to provide counselling support. Such support, she said, continues to be made free of charge to individuals and households. Other services which provide counselling and psychosocial support include the Ministry's annual cycles of community-based parenting workshops that are held across various districts and which are tailored to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to treat with issues including adolescence, bullying, trends in technology, teenage pregnancy and so on.

According to Minister Robinson-Regis, the Ministry is currently engaged in a number of community outreach caravans throughout the country, with the next one scheduled to take place in the Pinto Road community in Arima on Wednesday February 12, 2020. These caravans, she indicated, are designed to bring the Ministry's services closer to the communities, and sensitize residents as to the multiplicity of services that are available, all free of charge. Minister Robinson-Regis made a special appeal to the male population to seek out the help they needed in raising their children. Issues arising out of the failure to manage anger and intimate partner violence, she said, are becoming increasingly prevalent, and more men are being identified as perpetrators.

Minister Robinson-Regis pointed out that the Ministry would continue its part to make the psychosocial support services available across the length and breadth of the country, but emphasised that persons needed to take responsibility as well, to avail themselves of the services they needed.