



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Minister of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday January 24, 2020

Priority: HIGH
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Social Development Ministry leads Government's response to Beetham Fire

Port of Spain: Social Development and Family Services Minister, The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis visited the Beetham community on the evening of Friday January 24, 2020, to obtain first-hand view of the devastation caused by a fire which occurred at Phase IV Beetham, earlier in the day. Confirmed reports indicated that ten (10) adults and ten (10) children were rendered homeless as a result of the fire which destroyed seven (7) homes.

Minister Robison Regis was part of a delegation of Government officials which included Members of Parliament for the area The Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds and The Honourable Adrian Leonce, as well as Local Government Councillor Adanna Griffith-Gordon, Chairman of the Land and Settlement Agency (LSA) Ossley Francis; and Chief Executive Officer of the LSA Hazar Hosein. The Deputy Permanent Secretary and other staff Members of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services were also present.

The delegation was apprised by the affected residents of their immediate concerns and needs, including that of housing, clothing and school supplies. Most of the victims will be housed at family and friends, whilst one person will stay at the Beetham Gardens Community Centre.

Minister Robison-Regis assured the victims that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in conjunction with the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation will make available to the displaced residents, any assistance that could be immediately sourced and has indicated Government's intention to coordinate the assistance that would be provided by the various arms of the state. All residents received large food hampers from MPs Hinds and Leonce. Minister Robison-Regis indicated that temporary food cards will be given to all affected households on Monday January 27, 2020; and as the week progresses, school supplies and appliances, as well as counselling services will be provided to those affected.

Clearing of the burnt out area will occur over the weekend as coordinated by Councillor Griffith-Gordon. The Land and Settlement Agency will undertake a more comprehensive assessment of the area on Monday.



Caption: Prayers before discussing the way forward



Discussing the way forward: Minister of Social Development and Family Services, The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis discusses the way forward with Member of Parliament Hon. Adrian Leonce, for the fire victims of Beetham Gardens whose homes were destroyed by a fire which occurred on Friday January 24, 2020.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services Camille Robinson-Regis responds to a point made by one of the Beetham residents who was affected by Friday's fire which destroyed seven (7) homes and left twenty(20) persons homeless.

Also in photo are from L-R – Local Government Councillor Adanna Gordon-Griffith, Technical Staff at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and MPs for the area Honourable Adrian Leonce and Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services Camille Robinson-Regis responds to a point made by one of the Beetham residents who was affected by Friday's fire which destroyed seven (7) homes and left twenty (20) persons homeless.

Also in photo are from L-R – Local Government Councillor Adanna Gordon-Griffith, Land and Settlement Agency CEO Hazar Hosein, LSA Chairman Ossley Francis and MPs for the area Honourable Adrian Leonce and Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds.



Minister Robinson-Regis hear from affected residents what some of their immediate needs included and provided the assurance that help and the necessary support were underway.

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