



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday September 07, 2020

Priority: **HIGH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox makes courtesy call to the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development

Monday September 07, 2020 --- Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox paid a courtesy call to the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development, where she met with Secretary of Health, Wellness and Family Development, Councillor Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Assistant Secretary, Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillip and Administrator Cheryl-Ann Solomon on Monday to discuss among other things, the administration of Covid-19 social support measures in Tobago. Minister Cox was accompanied by the Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vijay Gangapersad during her visit.

In her brief remarks, Minister Cox stated that the visit to the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) was of critical importance to the Ministry, as the social services sector will continue to adopt a more definitive role in Trinidad and Tobago's national recovery efforts over the next five years. As such, Minister Cox advised that there is a great sense of urgency that presently surrounds the approval of outstanding requests for Covid-19 related social relief from the sister isle.

While the backlog continues to engage the attention of the MSDFS, she also said TTPost Tobago will complete the distribution of a batch of debit cards and cheques of approximately two hundred (200) approved applicants across the island by the end of this week. The delay was caused after one of its contractors tested positive for COVID-19.

Ms Davidson-Celestine, in thanking the Minister for placing the concerns of the sister isle on the front burner, indicated that she looks forward to working with the Ministry so that the concerns of Tobagonians continue to be addressed.

As part of efforts to expedite these approvals, Minister Cox's itinerary also included a meet and greet with staff of the Ministry's Food Support Programme and Social Welfare Offices, which are located in Carnbee and Scarborough, respectively.

Following the morning's courtesy calls, Minister Cox and the MSDFS Executive took the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Member of Parliament for Tobago West and the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Member of Parliament for Tobago East, to update them on the Covid-19 social support measures for Tobago and further discuss existing collaborations with the Ministry.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox takes a photo following the meeting with the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development's Administrator Cherryl-Ann Solomon, Councillor and Asst. Secretary Nadine Stewart-Phillip, Councillor and Secretary Tracy Davidson-Celestine and the Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vijay Gangapersad.



Matters of mutual concern: Minister Cox and her team meet with the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development to discuss social support measures for Covid-19 in Tobago.



Minister Cox meets with the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Member of Parliament for Tobago West and the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Member of Parliament for Tobago East.



Minister Cox and Deputy Permanent Secretary Vijay Gangapersad meet with staff of the Ministry's Food Support Programme in Tobago.

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