



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Minister Cox and TTARP discuss collaboration for advancement for older persons

As the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose several challenges on older persons in Trinidad and Tobago, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, met with members of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons' (TTARP), Mr. Peter Pena, Ms. Mayling Younglao, and Mr. Francis Raymond earlier today. The objective of the meeting was to determine ways in which the older persons can continue to lead healthy, active, and fulfilling lives within their communities, whilst mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 virus through partnership with the organization.

The meeting took place at the Ministry's Head Office on St Vincent Street, Port of Spain at 10:00 AM. During the meeting, Minister Cox indicated that prior to joining office, and even more so since assuming the role as Minister, she has always taken a keen interest in issues surrounding older persons and welcomes such opportunities for the advancement of this particular cohort of persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Other discussions of mutual interest included:

- Youth mentorship and other avenues to encourage safe intergenerational interaction between older persons and their younger counterparts;
- Homes for Older Persons Act;
- A Public Information Education and Sensitization Sessions for the TTARP members, discussing the range of social services available to older persons; and
- The re-vitalization of a Skills Bank targeted to vulnerable groups

Chief Technical Officer at the Ministry, Mr. Michael Reid as well as the Director of the Division of Ageing, Dr Hyacinth Blake, were also part of the meeting which focused on a range of projects and initiatives to provide the opportunity for greater collaboration.

In closing, Minister Cox indicated that she looks forward to deepening the discussions with the organization that would benefit older persons and the ageing population in Trinidad and Tobago.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox meets with members of the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Retired Persons engaged in discussions of mutual interest to benefit older persons.

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