



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 pays visit to elderly in need

In response to the plight of senior citizen Mr Farouk Khan, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox paid a visit to Mr Khan at his Lengua Road, Princes Town home to determine what support can be provided by the Ministry.

Minister Cox was accompanied by a team comprising Permanent Secretary Sheila Seecharan, Deputy Permanent Secretary Mr Vijay Gangapersad, Director of the National Social Development Programme Ms Patricia De Leon Henry and staff from both the Social Welfare Division and Communications Unit.

Mr Khan who lives in a dilapidated structure with no stairs for access to and from his home, reached out to the Minister, via a letter, stating that since the access road to his home collapsed some weeks ago, efforts to get assistance were futile. According to Khan reaching the Minister was the last resort as his letter stated: “*Minister You are my last bus stop*”

During the visit, Khan’s wife Bissoondayia Seecharan pointed out the damage caused by the shifting in the earth, making the road impassable with no access to their home, except through her neighbour’s property.

In response, Minister Cox committed to highlight the couple’s concerns to the Minister of Works and Transport. Officers from the Ministry’s National Social Development Programme NSDP were also present to conduct assessments for infrastructural house repairs. An Officer from the National Family Services Division is also scheduled pay a visit to Mr. Khan and his wife to provide counselling and psychosocial services later this week.

Following the visit, Minister Cox met and interacted with some of the residents of the area including Ms Victoria Marshall who was immediately assessed and presented with Temporary Food Support.





Ms Bissoondayia Seecharan gives Minister Cox a first-hand view of the difficulty she faces to get to and from her home.



Deputy Permanent Secretary Mr Vijay Gangapersad tours the home of the couple to determine what assistance and support the Ministry can provide.

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For more information:

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