



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 19 February 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

“The Pudding Lady” turns One Hundred

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services celebrates new Centenarian

A deep sense of community was evident during the birthday celebration of Freeport resident Ms Norma Belcon as persons from all over joined her as well as her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family members to wish her a Happy 100th Birthday on Thursday February 18, 2021.

Joining in on the celebrations was Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox. Minister Cox was joined by a technical team from the Ministry including representatives of the Division of Ageing and the Corporate Communications and Education Unit.

The Ministry’s team was received by Ms. Melina Gonzales, who is the great niece of Ms. Belcon. Ms Gonzales, who along with Mr Andy Husband, provided greater insight into Ms. Belcon's life. During their exchange with Minister Cox, it became clear that Ms. Belcon had dedicated much of her life to the service of others, including the fostering of a toddler, who was abandoned at her home when he was only three months old, and another child in addition to her two biological children.

Speaking to visitors, Ms Belcon said she never worries. “I don’t take on anything, if it’s bad, I just leave it and if its good then I dance and sing.”

Pointing to two crosses over her bed, Mr Husband said that Ms. Belcon’s longevity is also due to her strong faith in God stating that she is a “staunch Catholic.” He also recounted fond memories of his grandmother making the best pudding in Freeport and riding her bicycle from Freeport to Couva to her job at the Ministry of Works.

As the visit progressed, the Senior Citizens’ Pension recipient and her family also expressed a deep sense of gratitude to the Ministry, for the quality of care and professionalism that they were able to receive from Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP) caregiver Ms Hannah Nancis who was trained in elderly care. Ms Belcon also expressed her comfort with the GAPP caregiver.

In response, Minister Cox thanked Ms. Belcon for not only her hospitality, but also her service to the community in which she resides. She noted that her efforts would continue to go a long way in establishing the caring and nurturing environment in which the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is actively engaged in. She wished Ms. Belcon continued good health and

commended her family and well-wishers for exhibiting a deep sense of honour and pride on the occasion.

At the end of the visit, Minister Cox presented Ms Belcon with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement, a hamper, and other items on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry's Division of Ageing. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was once again pleased to observe this milestone and celebrate our Centenarian and encourages persons to contact the Division of Ageing to inform the Ministry of similar occasions at 623 – 2608; ext: 1403 – 1409.



Birthday Girl – Senior Citizens' Pension recipient Ms. Norma Belcon celebrates her 100th birthday at her Freeport home yesterday.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox presents a hamper to Ms. Norma Belcon.



Well-loved - Ms. Belcon celebrates the new milestone with Minister Cox, family, and friends

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For more information:
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