



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Minister Cox meets with Point Fortin Member of Parliament and Mayor of Point Fortin

On March 15th, 2021, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox joined by her Executive Team at the Ministry, comprising Permanent Secretaries Jacinta Bailey-Sobers, Shelia Seecharan, and Deputy Permanent Secretary Vijay Gangapersad; conducted several meetings and visits to various stakeholders in the Point Fortin area.

The Minister's first stop was at the office of Member of Parliament Kennedy Richards, where a meeting was held to discuss matters of mutual interest in an efforts, to ensure that no one is left behind. The Minister then paid a Courtesy Call on Her Worship, the Mayor of Point Fortin and Alderman Saleema Thomas. Here, discussions were held on the various initiatives being undertaken by the Ministry to service the burgesses of Point Fortin and environs in a more efficient and effective way, and through a more responsive delivery of social services.

One key area pointed out by Minister Cox was the plans by the Ministry to launch a Community First Responders Programme where the Ministry will be working closer with stakeholders and civil society organisations for greater impact at the local level. In this regard, through Ministry's Corporate Communication and Education Unit, Officers of the MP Office as well as Councillors and Staff of the Point Fortin Corporation, were engaged in an information session entitled: Public Information, Education and Sensitization Session, geared to provide first-hand information on accessing the Ministry's grants and services. The session which was very interactive and informative, was also attended by the Mayor, herself, who joined participants in receiving reliable and accurate information from Officers attached to the Ministry.

The session also aimed at clarifying issues related to access, whilst treating with concerns and responses from the Ministry. The session included representatives of the Social Welfare Division, National Family Services Division, Division of Ageing, Piparo Empowerment Centre and the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), where the SEED Programme, as well as grants for housing repairs, sanitary plumbing and electrical wiring were highlighted. Real-time poverty assessments were also conducted so that a better understanding was provided to those who are assisting citizens at the community level. Minister Cox thanked persons for attending the session indicating that it is through collaboration and sensitisations such as these, that the Ministry can achieve its full mandate of helping, empowering and transforming the lives of all needy citizens and residents of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Minister later met and greeted staff at the Point Fortin Social Welfare Local Board and also had the opportunity to engage with Social Welfare Supervisors of the region, and also engage with the members of the Local Board.

The outreach efforts held in Point Fortin, inclusive of the PIES session, formed part of the second instalment of the Ministry's Sensitization Series. These sessions will continue in each constituency over the coming months as the Ministry seeks to achieve its thrust of leaving no one behind.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox paid a Courtesy Call on Her Worship, the Mayor of Point Fortin and Alderman Saleema Thomas



Minister Cox and Permanent Secretary Jacinta Bailey-Sobers engage in discussion about collaborative solutions for street dwelling with Her Worship, the Mayor of Point Fortin and Alderman Saleema Thomas.



Senator the Honourable Donna Cox and the Executive of the MSDFS meets with Member of Parliament for Point Fortin, Mr. Kennedy Richards to discuss ways in which the constituency office can work closer with the Ministry



Senator the Honourable Donna Cox and Member of Parliament for Point Fortin, Mr. Kennedy Richards.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox engage Social Welfare Supervisors at the Point Fortin Borough Corporation.

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For more information:

Communications and Education Unit
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5405/5432
cceu@social.gov.tt