



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

MSDFS staff sharpens their Project Management skills in preparation for Mitigation Plan Roll Out

Port-of-Spain --- As part of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' preparation to implement various projects under the National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP), Ernst and Young's lead consultant for the implementation of Phase I of the Plan, provided Project Management training to key members of staff at the Ministry. The session took place on Monday April 12, 2021, at the Old Fire Station Building, Hart and Abercromby Street, Port of Spain and was chaired by Cassandra Ramkerrysingh, lead consultant at Ernst and Young. Additionally, key representatives from various Ministries, who are also providing technical support in the implementation process were invited to the session. Among these Ministries were the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, the Ministry of Planning and Development; as well as the Ministry of Sports and Community Development.

The National Social Mitigation Plan's primary objectives include the strengthening of the country's social protection system, promotion of community and civil society action against poverty and the growth of an enterprising and innovative society. Ernst and Young's role is to assist in advancing the major projects included in the Plan. These include nineteen projects, in collaboration with Ministries, State Agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and Programmes. Among these projects include the establishment of two(2) pilot projects for Community Health and Wellness Centres, nationwide campaigns on Personal Food security and financial management as well as the Establishment of a One Stop Shop Social services delivery system via a Social Support and Empowerment Unit

Ernst and Young Consultant, Cassandra Ramkerrysingh noted that the morning's session was about learning the theoretical tools relevant to the project management life cycle and the practical application of planning MSDFS outreach projects. She emphasized the crucial role Project Management plays in Organisational Management and its drivers for success, particularly in the public service. She was confident that the NSMP was positioned to assist with the country's recovery from the economic downturn.

Attendees had the opportunity to start the development of project plans for various projects such as the Ministry's Values, Attitudes and Behaviours Campaign and the Step Up Programme. Ms Ramkerrysingh reminded all attendees that their performance objectives and targets should always be SMART; i.e specific, measurable, agreed, realistic and time bound. With this training, staff was able to develop stronger project planning structures and implementation strategies.

The training session held today has contributed to the Ministry meeting the theme of the NSMP which is "Building Resilience to Secure our Nation."



Ernst and Young Consultant, Ms. Cassandra Ramkerrysingh (standing) leads staff of the Ministry in Project Management training.



Mrs Sasonel Felix, Research Specialist I of the Social Investigations Division of the Ministry participates in Project Management training.



Key members of staff at the Ministry participate in project management training.



Key members of staff at the Ministry participate in project management training as part of Phase I of the implementation of the National Social Mitigation Plan (NSMP).

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For more information:

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