



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12th July 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Minister Cox visits Longdenville family to provide support

Port-of-Spain --- In an effort to bring relief and provide ongoing assistance to the Longdenville family of nine (9) children and three grand-children, following a Sunday Express report on July 11, 2021, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator The Honourable Donna Cox, accompanied by a team of technical officers from the Ministry, conducted a visit earlier today.

Previous to the visit the Ministry, through its National Social Development Programme (NSDP) contacted Ms Jagessar and obtained relevant information on the household situation and an assessment on the family's immediate requirements was also completed. During the visit, the Minister presented the family with a market box and food hampers courtesy NAMDEVCO and shared information on the various grants and services which are offered by the Ministry. She indicated that she was pleased to see a whole of Government approach towards rendering assistance to the family in need. In this regard, she indicated that both the Office of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Education were contacted to also make an intervention, particularly as the children had no birth papers nor were they enrolled in any school.

Additionally, it has been determined that the family currently resides on state lands, and is in possession of a Certificate of Comfort and as such the MSDFS contacted the Land Settlement Agency to provide their non-objection for the client to conduct necessary repairs. During the visit the Ministry was able to get copies of relevant documentation in this regard. According to the Minister, "Ongoing efforts will be made to bring the family out of their situation, where opportunities for a better quality of life will be explored in the shortest possible time".

Further to this, representatives from the Ministry's National Family Services Division (NFSD) has scheduled counselling sessions and other psychosocial support to assist the family. Since the newspaper report, the family has received numerous food hampers, as well as a fridge and a stove. Additionally, through referrals made by the NFSD, the Ministry of Legal Affairs has been providing assistance with regard to obtaining birth certificates and ID cards for the family.

Colonial Life Building, 39-43 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.
Telephone: (868)-623-2608

www.social.gov.tt
Follow us: Facebook

Colonial Life Building, 39-43 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.
Telephone: (868)-623-2608

www.social.gov.tt
Follow us: Facebook

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to its mandate of helping, empowering and transforming the lives of all persons, particularly those who are most in need.



Senator the Honourable Donna Cox greets the Longenville family



Minister Cox presents NAMDEVCO market boxes. Also in photo are NAMDEVCO representatives



Minister Cox listens to the concerns of the Longdenville family



NAMDEVCO CEO and Minister Cox present the market boxes to the Longdenville family

-End-

For more information:

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