



Tuesday July 13, 2021

Priority: **HIGH**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES REACHES OUT TO LA HORQUETTA FAMILY AFFECTED BY FREAK STORM**

Mere hours after rendering assistance to a family living under poor conditions in Longdenville, Chaguanas, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator, the Honourable Donna Cox, joined by the Ministry's Executive Team and technical staff, visited a La Horquetta family that was displaced following a freak storm on July 8, 2021. Also accompanying the Ministry's team were Member of Parliament for La Horquetta/Talparo, The Honourable Foster Cummings, Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation's Chairman, Kwesi Robinson and CEO at the National Commission for Self Help Limited, Elroy Julien.

The Ministry was contacted by the Member of Parliament for the area, to provide assistance to the family, since the rooftop of their home was blown off and most of their belongings destroyed, following heavy rainfall and strong winds which occurred in the area last Thursday. Among those most affected was the family of Alexis Ramdhanee of Prophecy Avenue, La Horquetta. Ms Ramdhanee who lives with her sisters and their children indicated that the entire family is still traumatized by the incident, and is now grateful for any assistance to help with repairs to their home, as well as to replace furniture and appliances, clothing and school supplies, since most of these items were destroyed.

During the visit, the Ministry was able to conduct assessments of the damages and also provide information on how assistance could be rendered to the family through the various grants available. Additionally, Officers from the Ministry's National Family Services Division will be scheduling counselling sessions for the family members. According to Minister Cox, "There are several children in this family who were affected and who lost their school supplies. Under the disaster relief grants at the Ministry, the family will be eligible to receive both the clothing grant which is up to \$1,000.00 per person as well as the school supplies grant which amounts to \$700.00 for primary school children and \$1,000.00 for secondary school children".

The Minister ended by stating that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to assisting in restoring some level of normalcy to the family.

**-END-**



**L-R MP Foster Cummings and Minister Cox listens to the plea of Ms Ramdhanee**



MP for the area Foster Cummings joins with Minister Cox in assuring the Ramdhane family that assistance and support will be provided



Minister Cox and MP Foster Cummings present a member of the Ramdhanee family with a hamper



The current condition of the Ramdhanees house