

107 RECEIVE NSDP GRANTS

FOR HOUSE REPAIRS, HOUSE WIRING AND SANITARY PLUMBING

As the core social sector Ministry charged with the mandate and responsibility of positively transforming lives, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, under its National Social Development Programme (NSDP), distributed grant assistance to several families across the country on July 20, 2021. The grants which amount to a maximum of \$15,000.00 for materials were distributed during a brief ceremony held at the Ministry's Head Office in Port of Spain.

In her welcoming address,



newly -installed Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Jacqueline Johnson reminded those present of the criteria for accessing the NSDP grants and noted that applicants must undergo a Standard Means Test and have authorization to make repairs to the property.

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, during her address expressed the hope that such intervention by the Ministry would contribute towards the eradication of poverty in Trinidad and Tobago. She added that the distribution reaffirms Gov-

ernment's commitment to the development and implementation of programmes and services that protect and assist the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups in society.

The grant funding which totalled One Million, Four Hundred and Eighty-Two Thousand, and Fifteen Dollars (\$1 482,015.00) will see One Hundred and Seven (107) vulnerable households benefitting from minor structural repairs and wiring to their homes, such as the roof and flooring, as well as sanitary plumbing for new or improved water supply and the construction of indoor washroom facilities.

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services provides relief to La Horquetta family affected by freak storm



On July 15, 2021, 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. 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.

Ms Alexis Ramdhane and her family of Prophecy Avenue, La Horquetta, were

among the most affected by the recent heavy rainfall and strong winds, causing the rooftop of their home to be blown off and most of their belongings destroyed.

During the visit, the Ministry was able to assess the damage and 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 have scheduled counselling

sessions for the family members. The family is eligible to receive both the Ministry's clothing grant which is up to \$1,000.00 per person, as well as the school supplies grant which totalled to \$700.00 for primary school children and \$1,000.00 for secondary school children.

Minister Cox reassured that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to assisting in restoring some level of normalcy to the family.

Social Development Ministry 'kicks off' Webinar Series ON ELDER ABUSE

JULY 15, 22, 23 AND 30, 2021

"If ever there was need for a national conversation on this issue, the time is now".

Focused on the theme of "Elder Abuse Detection & Prevention during the COVID19 Pandemic & Beyond", the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services launched its Virtual Webinar Series on July 15, 2021, on Elder Abuse, as part of its commemoration of World

Elder Abuse Day, which was recognized on June 15. The four-part Webinar Series is intended to foster greater awareness of the mistreatment and exploitation of older persons in the society.

Online participants of the Webinar were told that the deleterious effects of



COVID-19 meant that now more than ever before, priority needs to be placed on encouraging further research, engaging stakeholders for policy development and highlighting support mechanisms in an effort to promote a safe living environment and better quality of life for older persons.

In her Keynote Address, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services expressed, "If ever there was need for a national conversation on this issue, the time is now".

The Minister cited data from the Division of Ageing's records which revealed

reports of 174 cases of different forms of elder abuse for the first five (5) months of this year. According to the Minister, "This figure has already surpassed the entire figure of 153 cases reported for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. This is indeed

a matter of grave concern and the Ministry is resolute in its intent to bring awareness to, and aid in the prevention of elder abuse, in all its forms" She ended by encouraging participants to share and explore ways in which the phenomenon could be curbed in Trinidad and Tobago.