



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday July 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Ministry provides support to Diego Martin Family whose house collapsed

Port-of-Spain --- On Monday July 26, 2021 the home of Jalene Neverson, mother of two and household of eight (8) persons, collapsed following heavy rainfall and lightning. Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator The Honourable Donna Cox made an emergency visit to the affected family earlier today, empathizing with the affected persons and offering assistance from the Ministry.

Officers from the Ministry were also present to assess the damages and provide counselling and psycho social support to those traumatized. Minister Cox indicated that the Ministry stands prepared to assist the family with necessary support to help with the repairs to their home. Under the National Social Development Programme, of the Ministry, persons affected by natural disasters will be eligible for up to \$20,000 in funding. Also accompanying Minister Cox on the visit was CEO of the National Commission for Self Help Limited Elroy Julien, who indicated that assistance will be rendered from his company to the tune of \$25,000.00 for hardware material. The Minister also promised to have Officers liaise with officials from the Land and Settlement Agency and also the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) to explore additional assistance. Councillor for the region Avanelle Boyce also added that she has contacted Habitat for Humanity to also render assistance.

Among other assistance offered during the visit were the rental assistance grant which would provide shelter to Ms Neverson and her two children, while the repairs were being undertaken. Two (2) hampers of food stuff were presented to the family.

According to Minister Cox, “The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to its mandate of helping, empowering and transforming the lives and she has assured the family of the Ministry’s commitment to help restore them to some form of normalcy.

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Minister Cox speaks to Jalene Neverson about the Ministry's various grants and services



Minister Cox pays close attention to the needs of Jalene Neverson



The current condition of the Neverson's house



(l-r) Mrs. Kathleen Sarkar, Assistant Director of National Family Services, Mrs Patricia De Leon Henry, NSDP Director and Minister Cox



Minister Cox and CEO of the National Commission for Self Help Limited Elroy Julien, who indicated that assistance will be rendered from his company to the tune of \$25,000.00 for hardware material