



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 21 December 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

### *Small Business Grant on showcase Social Development Ministry supports Small Business Expo.*

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to support and participate in the three-day 2021 Small Business Exposition hosted by Trinmag and Precision Signs & Trophies. The exposition which was held from Friday 17th December 2021 to Sunday 19th December 2021 saw numerous small business owners showcasing custom, handmade and homemade products including soaps, cakes, and desserts, jewellery, food, prints, and clothing.

Joining the event on Saturday, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox said that it is the Ministry's mandate to help, empower and transform lives, therefore it was imperative that her Ministry participate and showcase its Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) grant. The SEED grant amongst other things provides financial assistance to persons in difficult social and economic circumstances to establish or expand a micro project or small business venture. Persons accessing this grant can receive up to \$15,000.00 to expand or start their small business.

The Ministry's booth also provided patrons with information on how to access various grants and services inclusive of counselling services offered by the National Family Services Division.

Noting that the ongoing pandemic has made it difficult for the small business sector, Minister Cox commended organisers Trinmag and Precision Signs & Trophies for hosting a successful and safe event further stating that the initiative is welcomed as many small business owners have a greater opportunity to obtain finances through the sale of their products at the event.

In attendance also was the Honourable Foster Cummings, Minister of Youth Development and National Service, line Ministry for key sponsor National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO). Minister Cummings indicated that the government is committed to expanding its support to small business owners including the provision of \$50 million in the 2022 budget to assist the sector with proper record keeping.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to participate in this initiative which sought to, among other things, empower vulnerable individuals to create a better quality of life for themselves and their families.



*Supporting small businesses - Minister Cox receives products from small business entrepreneur Carla Brown of Jus Curls at the small business expo on Saturday.*



Minister Cox and Minister Cummings try some of the products of small business entrepreneur Karrah Kare.



Minister Cox, Minister Cummings and NEDCO CEO Calvin Maurice tour booths at the small business expo.



Minister Cox and Minister Cummings tour the Ministry's Booth at the Small Business Expo.