



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

### MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 23 December 2021

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

#### Ministry Celebrates New Centenarian “Christmas Baby”

COVID-19 may have dampened many celebrations locally and worldwide, but it did not dampen the spirit of Mr Gibbs Kerr who celebrates his 100th birthday on December 24, 2021. To celebrate the milestone, his children hosted a small celebration at his Wallenvale Road, Guaico, Sangre Grande home.

Joining the family to mark this milestone, was the Director of the Division of Ageing, Dr Hyacinth Blake, who asked Mr. Kerr for his advice on boosting longevity.

"Sell your rights for peace" said Mr Kerr as an ounce of wisdom to Dr Blake. Mr Kerr indicated that he is very happy to reach this significant lifetime milestone, stating that it is truly an honour and strongly prides himself in his Grandmother's favourite saying, "How you make your bed so you lie on it."

Mr. Kerr recounted other fond memories of working with the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) and Guardian Newspaper. Mr. Kerr was born in Moriah, Tobago and landed his first job as a bus conductor with the Arima Bus Company. In 1951, he was promoted to the post of Dispatcher and then became Acting Supervisor of the PTSC. Further to this, he became Traffic Supervisor until he retired in 1981.

In response, Dr Blake thanked Mr. Kerr for not only his hospitality, but also his service to the community in which he resides. She noted that his efforts would continue to go a long way in establishing the caring and nurturing environment in which the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is actively subscribed to. "You are so blessed to live to see one hundred" said Dr Blake, who later on presented Mr. Kerr with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement and other items on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry's Division of Ageing.

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox sent her regards to Mr. Kerr and stated that the recognition also serves as a demonstration of the Ministry's commitment to promoting and preserving the well-being of older persons who are resourceful members of our society. She shared that the Ministry recently launched its National centenarian Programme which will seek to, among other things, recognize the contributions and achievements of older persons who have attained the graceful age of 100 years.

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Members of the public are encouraged to contact the Division of Ageing to inform of similar occasions or log on to the Ministry's website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt) to register centenarians. Registration forms are also available at the Ministry's eleven (11) Social Welfare Offices nationwide.

ENDS

**For more information:**

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Dr Hyacinth Blake, the Director of the Division of Ageing presents Mr. Kerr with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement and other items on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry's Division of Ageing.



Mr Kerr recounts fond memories of his life



Dr Hyacinth Blake, Director of the Division of Ageing and the children of Mr Gibbs Kerr thank God for letting Mr Gibbs Kerr reach this significant milestone