



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

#### “Talk to the Lord everyday” says New Centenarian

Sangre Grande has a new centenarian as **Ms. Dorothy Lewis** turned 100 years old on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022. To celebrate the significant milestone, her family hosted a small celebration at their Amede Drive, Quash Street home. Inspectors of the Division of Ageing, Sophia Kennedy and Janinka Gomes were present to celebrate with the family and honour Ms. Lewis as part of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services’ National Centenarian Programme where citizens 100 years and over are honoured and recognized for their contributions to the development of Trinidad and Tobago. Also in attendance was Member of Parliament for Toco/Sangre Grande Mr. Roger Monroe.

Noting that senior citizens are living longer, Ms. Sophia Kennedy of the Division of Ageing asked Ms. Lewis what is her secret to longevity where Ms. Lewis heartily stated that she talks to the Lord every day and puts her trust and faith in *him*.

During the celebration Ms. Lewis also took the time to impart words of advice to the younger generation. “Go to school, listen to your parents and always do what is right” said Ms. Lewis. Ms Tricia Henry, one of Ms Lewis’s grandchildren said her grandmother’s brain is very sharp as she still enjoys playing games such as crossword puzzles.

Following the rich dialogue, Ms. Kennedy then presented Ms. Lewis with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement for her contributions to the development of Trinidad and Tobago, a hamper courtesy *No Youth Left Behind TT* and a birthday cake from key partner, Kiss Baking Company.

Born on March 16, 2022, Ms. Lewis grew up in Sangre Grande. She is the mother of nine children, 21 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. At twenty-six (26) years old, she married the love of her life, the late Mr. Austin Lewis, with whom she spent approximately 69 years of her life, until his passing. Ms. Lewis worked in community development teaching women how to make crafts such as handbags, belts and hats until she retired. Her favourite foods include fruit and ice-cream.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to honour Ms. Lewis as part of the National Centenarian Programme and invite persons to register for the programme.

Persons may visit the Ministry's website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt) and complete the online form or print a downloadable form for completion. Completed forms may be dropped off at the nearest Social Welfare Office or emailed to the Division of Ageing at [opic@social.gov.tt](mailto:opic@social.gov.tt).

For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2002 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).



Ms Dorothy Lewis celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday



Ms Dorothy Lewis celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with her great great grandchildren and great grandchildren





Ms Dorothy Lewis tells Janinka Gomes, Inspector of the Division of the Ageing her secret to longevity



Inspector of the Division of Ageing, Sophia Kennedy presents Ms Dorothy Lewis with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement for her contributions to the development of Trinidad and Tobago