



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

100 not out, Mr. John Dufeal celebrates his 100th Birthday

“One-hundred not out” was the theme for the 100th birthday celebration of Mr. John Micheal Dufeal who celebrated his centenary at his Cumuto home, on June 6. According to Trinidad and Tobago’s most recent centenarian, the secret to living to a hundred is being faithful to God and praying to Him for long life. According to Mr. Dufeal *“Serve God when you are young and He will be faithful to you. He will not forget you in your old age.”*

Mr. Dufeal was visited by Sophia Kennedy, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing who asked the avid cricket fan, who is his favorite team or cricketer to which he responded *“I don’t have no side. The team that usually wins”*. Born June 6th, 1922, Mr. Dufeal who migrated to Trinidad at the age of nineteen (19) shared fond memories of his time in Grenada. *“I grew up in St Georges, Grenada. I remember going down to the market with my mother to sell coals, crops and spices. I also remember having to cross rivers to go to primary school.”*

Mr Dufeal who also worked as a general worker on the army base during World War II also shared how he met Mrs. Dufeal. *“We both lived in Cumuto, but I met her in the train station. We travelled together and spoke all the way to San Fernando. Three months after I saw her in Cumuto junction and I walked her home and I confessed my love for her at that time. I went and see her mother and she told me if I liked her daughter I would have to write for her. I went by a lawyer as soon as possible to write two letters; one for permission to court her and another for engagement. I gave her mother the first and one week later the other. We were engaged for six months before being married on 29th October 1950.”*

The Ministry also learned that the father of nine, grandfather of thirty-five; and great grandfather of fifty-five, and great-great-grandfather of four, also helped to establish the Cumuto Church of the Nazarene and worked with the Forestry Division until his retirement.

Following the conversation, Mr Dufeal was then presented him with a fruit hamper, his Certificate of Honour and Achievement, and a birthday cake by the Kiss Baking Company and to honour him as part of the National Centenarian Programme. To register for the Programme, persons may visit the Ministry’s website at 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. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).



Mr Duféal at his birthday celebration with daughter, Cheryl Duféal- Stewart and son, Morgan Duféal.



Mr. Dufeal's is joined by his granddaughter Reneasha Boodramsingh, grandson-in-law, Joel Boodramsingh, daughter Cheryl Dufeal-Stewart and daughter-in-law Lucille Dufeal for his 100th birthday celebration.



Mr Dufeal is presented with his Certificate of Honour and Achievement from Ms Sophia Kennedy, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing.