



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 01 June 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Ministry continues to showcase grants and services at outreaches across the country

Since the reopening of the country, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) continues in its efforts to reach the vulnerable and sensitize the national community on its suite of social services during some outreach initiatives undertaken recently. The Ministry, therefore, had a presence at some events/outreaches held by partnering agencies including “A Day of Fun for Children with Special Needs” hosted by the Council of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation on April 29th, an Information Fair and Pro Bono Legal Clinic hosted by the Councillor for the Five Rivers District on May 18th, and caravans hosted by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management on May 6th and May 13th on the Brian Lara and Harris Promenades.

Consistent with the Ministry’s mandate of helping, empowering, and transforming lives, the Ministry’s participation was geared towards providing assistance and opportunities for advancement as well as providing information on how eligible persons can access some of its core grants and services. These include grants provided under the Social Welfare Division, Disability Affairs Unit, National Social Development Programme and critical information on counselling and psycho-social support services for individuals and families and workshops for parents and grandparents under the National Family Services Division.

Of particular interest at the outreaches was the qualification and criterion for the Minor House Repair grant under the National Social Development Programme. Questions arising out of the Ministry’s New Life and Residence Declaration Form were also clarified and participants indicated that they were indeed thankful that the information was brought to them.

As a key social sector partner and stakeholder, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to have participated in these initiatives and welcomes the opportunity to partner with various government agencies, NGOs, and FBOs as it seeks to Help...Empower and Transform Lives.

The Ministry will also soon relaunch its Community Outreach and Impact Caravan where persons would gain access to a multiplicity of social grants and services and interact first-hand with representatives of the various partner agencies.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSDFS Caravan took Government Services including the Ministry of Public Utilities – WASA and T&TEC; the Office of the Prime Minister – Children’s

Authority and Gender and Child Affairs Division; as well as the Ministry of Education – YTEPP, National Training Agency and MIC to several communities throughout the country.

The Caravan supports the National Social Mitigation Plan of the MSDFS and focuses on building resilience and creating opportunities for the vulnerable, unemployed, and at-risk families and communities.



Attendees including His Worship The Mayor Alderman Junia Regrello receive information on the Ministry's grants and services at a caravan hosted by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management in San Fernando.



Staff of the Ministry interact with attendees at the Information Fair and Pro Bono Legal Clinic hosted by the Councillor for the Five Rivers District on May 18th.