



## MEDIA RELEASE

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

### Mr Donald Johnson celebrates 103<sup>rd</sup> Birthday

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to honour persons who have attained the age of one-hundred and over. The latest person to be honoured is Mr Donald Johnson who celebrated his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mr Johnson was visited by Hannah Ramroop-Millet, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing and Ms. Charlene Moorley, Family Service Social Worker of the National Family Services Division where he was presented a with a fruit hamper, his Certificate of Honour and Achievement, and a birthday cake sponsored by the Kiss Baking Company.

According to Mr Johnson, the mercy of Almighty God, hard labour and good natural foods are the secrets to longevity. Quoting Exodus 20:12 "Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee", Mr Johnson said that the best advice that he can give to this generation is to trust God and pray.

Mr Johnson also stated that he never completed primary school because he had to work noting that he began working at the age of eight (8) "*working in the forest pulling wood*" further noting that the children of today are able to access improved living conditions and greater access to resources.

*"Today children can go to school and they don't have to work as hard. People today have cars, lights water and a lot of conveniences"* said Mr Johnson.

The father of seven (7), grandfather of fifteen (15), great-grandfather of twenty (20) and great-great-grandfather of two (2) also noted that he grew up in Mandingo Road, Indian Walk, Moruga and is a proud descendant of the Merikins, African American soldiers who fought for the British in the war of 1812 and were given lands in Moruga as payment for their service.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services encourages family members and loved ones, Members of Parliament, Local Government representatives, friends, and neighbours to salute our nation's centenarians by registering for them for the National Centenarian 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 2001 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).



Mr Donald Johnson surrounded by relatives and loved ones celebrates his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday



Ms Hannah Ramroop-Millet, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing presents Mr Donaldson with his Certificate of Honour and Achievement.