



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

### **Janet Slinger celebrates her 100th birthday!**

“You’re batting with Lara girl” said retired Chief Elections Officer of the Elections and Boundaries Commission Ms Joycelyn Lucas to Ms Janet Slinger who celebrated her 100th birthday on July 9th, 2022. Ms Lucas was one of several persons joining the new centenarian to celebrate the achievement. Ms Slinger was also visited by Mr Ernest Webster, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing who presented her with a Certificate of Honour and Achievement, her birthday cake sponsored by the Kiss Baking Company and a fruit hamper courtesy of NAMDEVCO.

When asked about her secret to longevity, Ms Slinger fondly called “Jan” or “Janet” indicated that her secret is to “live good with people, eat well, pray and do not make confusion.” Guests were also stunned by Ms Slinger’s youthful appearance were told by the centenarian that she does not wear makeup and gets ample rest.

Ms Slinger was born in Mundo Nuevo but moved to San Juan where she has been a resident since the age of nine. She said before being called Jan, she was known to many as Camilita. “People called me by my first name Janet but long ago when I resided in Mundo Nuevo, my nickname was “Camilita”.

Ms Slinger who has all her faculties and no major illnesses vividly remembered and recalled her first job. According to Ms. Slinger “My first job was as an embroidery machine worker at Acbarali's and other jobs in places like Miller's. At age 45yrs I held the job of Server to the Commissioner of the Election and Boundaries. The Commissioner at the time was Mr Hyatali. I spent 25 years there.”

Noting that the world has changed, the mother of seven, grandmother to thirteen, great-grandmother to nineteen and great-great-grandmother of two urged the younger generation to live with love. “The world has changed drastically, what stands out the most is a lot more crime. It’s either terrible or drastic. There are so many murders, too much killing. I would like the young generation to keep close to God, have a pure and clean heart towards their fellows and live with more love.”

Ms Slinger also shared some of her fondest memories. “My favourite memories rest with my elder sister Carmen. We travelled and toured a lot of places abroad in Puerto Rico, Florida, Washington and the Caribbean. She passed one week before her 100th birthday. She was born on December 14th 1919.”

At 100 years young, guests were also surprised to learn Ms Slinger still cooks, does her laundry and exercises stating that her days are mostly tranquil. “My days are very quiet, peaceful, moving around and keeping active. As I have slowed down I spend my days mostly resting and in prayer. Depending on how I feel I do little exercise in the morning time in the sun standing on my porch and cook a simple meal, no meat, fish sometimes” said Ms Slinger.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to honour our latest centenarian and encourage family and loved ones, Members of Parliament, Local Government representatives, friends, and neighbours to salute our nation’s centenarians by registering 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 2001 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).

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Ms Slinger receives her Certificate of Honour and Achievement from Mr Ernest Webster, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing.



Ms Slinger is joined by her children Annette Slinger-Harewood and Earl Slinger for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.





*Retired Chief Elections Officer Ms Joycelyn Lucas presents her gift to birthday “girl” and new centenarian Ms Janet Slinger.*