



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE

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Priority: HIGH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministries advance discussions on information sharing

As progress continues into the Ministry's access to travel information, another meeting took place between the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) and the Ministry of National Security (MNS) to refine arrangements for the full implementation of their collaboration. It is envisaged that this partnership will see the seamless transmission of travel information and verification with respect to citizens and residents of Trinidad and Tobago applying for social assistance grants offered by the Ministry.

The meeting was held at the Ministry's Head Office on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain on Monday 18th July 2022, and was led by Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services. The meeting also included Permanent Secretaries at the MSDFS Jacqueline Johnson and Sheila Secharan, Permanent Secretary at the MNS, Gary Joseph, Chief Immigration Officer Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews, and representatives of both Ministries' Legal and Information and Communications Technology Departments. Representatives from the Social Welfare Division of the MSDFS also joined the meeting

The meeting was aimed at finalising the information and communications technology infrastructure needed for a secure and certified platform for data exchange. Discussions also focused on the operationalisation of the system as parties agreed that a pilot test of the Ministry's data will be conducted to ensure that the system works effectively. This is the first undertaking of this kind by the Immigration Division and both parties indicated that they look forward to this new era of cooperation between government entities for information sharing that would result in greater efficiency, cost savings, and improved client satisfaction.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services looks forward to finalising the Memorandum of Understanding that will allow for easier access to real-time, accurate information, as the Ministry forges ahead with helping, empowering, and transforming lives.

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Minister Cox leads the discussion on information sharing.



Ministries meet to advance discussions on information sharing