



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Ministry honours 100-year-old Ms. Paulina Amoy Chotalal and 103-year-old Mr. Neville Hubert De Landro

Two centenarians were honoured under the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' National Centenarian Programme. They are Ms. Paulina Amoy Chotalal who celebrated her 100th birthday on June 26th, 2022 and Mr. Neville Hubert De Landro who celebrated his 103rd birthday also on June 26th, 2022.

At the 100th birthday celebration of Ms. Chotalal at the Cascadia Hotel, the new centenarian was lauded by family members for being a great source of inspiration to her four children, fourteen grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. Her culinary skills were also applauded by those gathered noting that she made the best coconut drops.

As a devout believer in Jesus Christ, Ms. Chotalal credited Jesus as her secret to longevity further stating that she reads Psalms five, twenty-three, twenty-seven, and ninety-one daily. Fondly called Momma Amar, she stated that the best advice she can give to the young generation, is to pray to Jesus.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Public Relations Officer Mr. Rennie Mohammed told family members and loved ones gathered that the Ministry is pleased to honour centenarians for their significant contributions.

“Today is indeed a joyous day as it isn't every day we get the opportunity to be in the presence of such a resilient individual. I must say that we at the Ministry are always very excited to be in the presence of these veterans of life, as we always leave with a sense of fulfilment, history, and purpose when they reflect on the “good old days” said Mr. Mohammed.

‘Be humble, listen to those in authority and prioritise pursuing an education’ was the advice from Pleasantville Centenarian Neville De Landro on the occasion of his 103rd birthday at the Pleasantville Community Centre. Mr. De Landro, who raised seven girls and is the grandfather of fourteen and twenty-nine great-grandchildren, spent thirty-five years as an auto-mechanic with Texaco. He believes that there is no secret to his long life, but simply genetics since he said most of his siblings lived to their 90s. Mr. De Landro further added that he would like to live until 2032.

His daughter Dianne shared that Mr. De Landro is known for being a ‘shade master’ and has a great sense of humour while his daughter Debra shared fond memories of vacation times with the family. Mr. De Landro keeps active by walking 1000 steps every day, loves to read, and is an excellent ‘rummy’ card player.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to honour Ms. Chotalal and Mr. De Landro 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 De Landro at his 103rd birthday celebration at the Pleasantville Community Centre on June 26th, 2022.



Ms Chotalal surrounded by family and friends as she celebrates her 100th birthday at the Cascadia hotel.



“Birthday Girl” - Ms. Paulina Amoy Chotalal celebrates her 100th birthday.



Mr Rennie Mohammed and Ms Janinka Gomes of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services present Ms Chotalal with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement and a birthday cake sponsored by the Kiss Baking Company. Ms Chotalal also received a fruit hamper.



Mr De Landro celebrate his 103rd birthday at the Pleasantville Community Centre on June 26th. Seated next to him is his daughter Debra.