



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

August 9, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

I hope for peace and unity among our countrymen says new centenarian

For her 100th birthday, Ms. Ethel Swann is hoping for peace and unity among our countrymen. Ms. Swann celebrated her 100th birthday on August 6th, 2022 and when asked about her secret to longevity, Ms. Swann credited God and genetics. “By the grace of God and it is also part of my genes. My maternal grandmother and my aunt both died at 104 years and my mother and other aunts and uncles died in their mid-90s. My siblings also died in their 90s. My twin brother, Ethelbert, died nine years ago.” said Ms. Swann.

Ms. Swann was born on August 6th, 1922 at Mc Carthy Street, Cantaro Village, Santa Cruz. One of five children, and part of a twin, the new centenarian said her favourite memory growing up was helping with her family-owned cocoa and coffee estate in Sangre Grande.

Ms. Swann also provided a brief insight into how she met her husband of sixty years. According to Ms. Swann, “My mother-in-law would visit her friend who was our neighbour in Sangre Grande. She would always see me doing household chores. One day she called out to my aunt and told her that she had a son who she would like me to marry and my aunt agreed after meeting him. His name was Sydney Swann. We were married in July 1945, close to my 23rd birthday. He died in 2007. We have eight children, twenty-three grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren.”

Ms. Swann said that the most important lesson she has learned in her life is “be kind to people so you will always be trusted” and she is proudest of “being able to build and own a home with little resources.” Ms. Swann also provided some advice for the younger generation – “My best advice for the younger generation is to learn a trade so you can be employable, not everyone is academically inclined. Keep friends that are ambitious and do not follow bad company. Do not depend on your parents, it is not what they leave for you but what they leave in you.”

Ms Nyiida Andrews, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing visited the new centenarian at her Champ Fleurs home and presented Ms. Swann with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement, a fruit hamper, and a birthday cake sponsored by the Kiss Baking Company.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to honour Ms. Swann and encourage persons to salute our nation’s centenarians by registering for the National Centenarian 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).



Ms Ethel Swan and members of staff form the Division of Ageing



Celebrating 100 years ... Ms Ethel Swan