



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services commemorates International Day of Older Persons

Port-of-Spain --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services joins the national and international communities in commemorating International Day of Older Persons (IDOP). This year's theme "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World", reminds us that they are the backbone of our families, communities and society, they continue to overcome challenges with resilience; and make meaningful contributions to this Nation.

In her Message on the occasion, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator The Honourable Donna Cox said "Many of us are fortunate to have older women and even older men in our homes, as parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, neighbours and friends. Their wisdom, guidance, insight, and experience inspire us to overcome our own challenges".

The Minister lauded the courage, determination, endurance, love and commitment of our nation's older citizens and made the call for us to prioritize the care of the elderly because they deserve to be treated with dignity and respect; as we build a more inclusive and age-friendly society for them.

Among the activities undertaken by the Ministry to mark the Day, the SEEDs of Hope Challenge was introduced. Seeds of Hope seeks to promote a sense of social inclusion and esteem among older persons, providing an opportunity for positive social interaction between caregivers, family members and their seniors. This initiative also promotes sustainable food production which in return has the potential to encourage healthy eating practices; and in turn, decrease expenditure through the reduction of the food import bill.

The Challenge requires persons to take a photo of themselves with an older relative, wearing White, Grey or Purple, while planting a seed or seedlings, and post to the Ministry's social media platforms. The competition deadline is October 30, 2022.

Persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 or 2008 or email opic@social.gov.tt for more information.

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For more information:

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