



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

Minister Cox discusses fraudulent Cheque matters with Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT)

As there continues to be fraudulent cheques in circulation, the Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator The Honourable Donna Cox, on December 19, 2022, convened a second meeting with the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT). In attendance were Mr. Richard Downie, President of BATT; Ms. Gayle Pazos, Managing Director of Scotiabank; Ms. Kathleen Daly, Managing Director of Ansa Bank Ltd, Mr. Kurt Headley, Head of Retail Banking, First Citizens Bank and other senior banking officials. The executive team representing the Ministry were Permanent Secretaries Jacqueline Johnson and Sheila Seecharan, as well as Deputy Permanent Secretaries - Jasmine Pascal and Wendy Guy-Hernandez.

The meeting was convened to strategize on preventative measures to alleviate fraudulent cheques in the system as well as establishing creative mechanisms in which both the Ministry and the Banks could facilitate the ease of doing business for our vulnerable citizens. The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss arrangements for grant recipients to receive their funding through direct deposit thereby reducing fraudulent activities.

According to Minister Cox, “The Ministry makes continuous efforts to ensure that meaningful solutions are created to safeguard its clients, as there are high incidents of fraud and stolen cheques. In this regard, the Ministry continues to encourage persons to sign up for Direct Deposit.”

In response, BATT President indicated that special arrangements have been made to facilitate recipients of social welfare cheques and that the banks will continue to collaborate with the Ministry’s ongoing campaign, to get more persons on direct deposit.

The Government is also working with the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to introduce Digital Currencies e.g. electronic wallet which will facilitate those who do not have an account with the Commercial Banks. In conclusion, both parties agreed to working closely together to ensure that no one is left behind.

For more information:

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

T: (868) 623-2608; Ext 5402-5411

E: cceu@social.gov.tt



Cross section of the meeting between the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Richard Downie, President of BATT (at left) makes a point to Minister Cox, seated at the head of the table.