



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE



January 26, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Social Development Celebrates Three Centenarians

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services recently celebrated three centenarians - Ms. Ruby Paynter who celebrated her 100th birthday on January 20, 2023, Ms. Dora Gibbons who celebrated her 101st birthday on January 24, 2023, and Ms. Ena Henry who marked her centenary on Wednesday 25th January, 2023.

Glitz and glam was the theme for the grand 100th birthday celebration for Ms. Ruby Paynter born January 20, 1923 in Woburn, Grenada. The celebration was held on January 21, 2023 at the Upper Eldorado Community Centre, El Dorado. Ms. Paynter, who migrated to Trinidad at the age of seven, credited her longevity to rising early in the morning and starting and ending her day with prayer. The mother of ten, grandmother to over fifty and great-grandmother to over twenty further indicated that she especially prays for her family.

Ms. Dora Gibbons marked her centenary milestone last year with an intimate brunch at her Coral Gardens Diego Martin home. Among those specially invited to celebrate the milestone was Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox. To celebrate her 101st birthday this year, the centenarian enjoyed a quiet moment with family and friends, still attributing her longevity to prayers and faith.

The one-hundredth birthday celebrations for Ms. Ena Henry was held on Wednesday 25th January, 2023 at the Simeanna Home (For Aged) in St. James. Born in Bethel, Tobago, Ms. Henry fondly called “Tanty Ena” attributes her longevity to eating healthy foods. Ms. Ena also stunned representatives of the Ministry when she, without glasses or err, read aloud her Certificate of Honour and Achievement. The former housewife, mother of four, grandmother and great grandmother to many also had some words of advice to this generation “Respect your parents and your elders” further noting that the most important lesson she has learnt in her lifetime is to “Live good with people and mind your business.”

Centenarians recognized under the National Centenarian Programme (NCP) including Ms. Paynter, Ms. Henry and Ms. Gibbons are scheduled to receive their commemorative medals. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services encourages persons to register for the 2023 instalment of the National Centenarian Programme. The NCP seeks to promote a sense of social inclusion and esteem among centenarians given their contributions to the development and overall



success of our nation. Persons wishing to register 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 2002 to 2009 or 800-OPIC (6742).

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For more information:

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Ms. Ruby Paynter struts into her 100th birthday celebrations on January 21, at the Upper Eldorado Community Centre.



Ms. Ena Henry celebrates her 100th birthday at the Simeanna Home (For Aged).



101 – Ms Dora Gibbons celebrates her 101st birthday with family and friends.