



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

May 22, 2023

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

#### **Central and Public Assistance Boards receive instruments of appointment**

*Port of Spain*--- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, presented Instruments of Appointment to thirty-eight (38) persons who will serve as Members of the Central and Local Public Assistance Boards. The presentation took place earlier today, May 22, at the Ministry's Head Office, St Vincent Street, Port of Spain. Also in attendance were Ag. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Ryan Ramcharan and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Wendy Guy-Hernandez.

The Appointees are required to attend Local Board and Assessment Meetings for the purpose of scrutinizing applications for Senior Citizens' Pension, Public Assistance and Disability Assistance Grant and Burial Assistance Grant and for making decisions on applicants on merits according to the Acts, policies, regulations and guidelines.

During her brief address, Minister Cox in thanking the members for their willingness to serve, told the new members that their appointments are valuable as they form part of the Ministry's continued efforts to achieving the national strategic goals outlined in the National Development Strategy (2016-2030)/ (Vision 2030) regarding the eradication of poverty and the enhancement of the lives of the vulnerable.

She further advised that they should familiarize themselves with the guiding legislations of the Social Welfare Division namely, the Senior Citizens Pension Act and the Public Assistance Act, as their core duties include controlling, directing and assisting the Local Boards in administering these core grants and where necessary, performing the duties of any of the Ministry's local boards.

In closing, Minister Cox took the opportunity to offer her full support to the Local Boards and wished all board members a successful and productive tenure.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to enhancing the lives of vulnerable citizens.

**Central Board- Head Office**

1. Ms. George Johnson
2. Ms. Denise Merkitch
3. Ms. Debbie Calliste
4. Mr. Marlon Noel
5. The Venerable Kenley Baldeo
6. Mr. Richard Williams
7. Ms. Cynthia Joseph
8. Ms. Alicia Hospedales

**St. George Central**

1. Ms. Janice Perouse- Sullivan
2. Mr. Samuel Pete Thomas
3. Ms. Toneila Manswell
4. Ms. Ann Marie Bowen- Matamoro
5. Ms. Tricia Lalmah

**St. George East**

1. Mr. Ronald Marcano
2. Ms. Natasha Craigwell-Boland
3. Ms. Jenna David
4. Ms. Gilann Ashton
5. Mr. Wilhelm Joseph

**Caroni**

1. Mr. Franklyn Browne
2. Ms. Karen Carraballo
3. Ms. Samiya De Bruin
4. Ms. Michelle Bridgelal
5. Ms. Jacqueline Farfan

**St. Andrews**

1. Mr. Anton Pierre
2. Ms. Monica Austin
3. Ms. Ava De Freitas Ramnath
4. Mr. Roland Keith Perreia
5. Ms. Jeniffer Pierre

**St. Patrick West**

1. Dr. Germaine Bovell- Pitt
2. Mr. Rudolph Singh
3. Ms. Isare Lewis- Simpson
4. Ms. Kriscia Simon
5. Ms. Nicolle Garcia

**St. George West**

1. Ms. Mona Persad
2. Ms. Nicole Richards
3. Ms. Lydia Rayside
4. Ms. Aisha Kujifi
5. Mr. Stephen Harper

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**For more information:**

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Minister Cox delivers remarks during the Instrument of Appointment ceremony held at the Ministry's Head Office



Minister Cox presents the Instrument of Appointment to Ms Mona Persad



Minister Cox presents the Instrument of Appointment to Samiya De Bruin



Minister Cox presents the Instrument of Appointment to the Venerable Archdeacon Kenley Baldeo



Minister Cox presents the Instrument of Appointment to Wilhelm Joseph



Minister Cox presents the Instrument of Appointment to Alicia Hospedales





Minister Cox and the newly appointed board members of the Central Board



Minister Cox, Ag Permanent Secretary Ryan Ramcharan and newly appointed board members of St. George Central



Minister Cox, Ag Permanent Secretary Ryan Ramcharan and members of the newly appointed St Patrick West Board



(l-r) Ag Permanent Secretary Ryan Ramcharan, Minister Cox and Christine John-Guy, Ag. Director of Social Welfare and newly appointed board members