



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Social Development hosts its first ever Social Worker of the Year Awards Ceremony

Port of Spain--- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services hosted its first ever Social Worker of the Year Awards Ceremony on May 11, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency, Trinidad, to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of Social Workers attached to the Ministry. A total of thirty-nine (39) social workers from various Divisions and Local Board Offices were recognized for their assiduous efforts towards improving the lives of the vulnerable population of Trinidad and Tobago.

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services commended the social workers for their ceaseless dedication and effort to support those in need, and stated that their efforts demonstrate their passion, perseverance and dedication to helping, empowering and transforming lives.

“Social Workers serve as a true testament that with determination, endurance, discipline and the right attitude, one can push through and overcome the hurdles. I hope that your peers can be inspired that recognition at the highest level is within their reach and would continue to aspire towards this goal” said Minister Cox while sharing some words of encouragement to the social workers present.

The Social Worker of the Year award went to the social worker with the most exemplary reputation of success in the Ministry’s social work landscape, Farisha Mohammed, Social Worker, National Family Services Division. Ms. Mohammed serves on the Management Committee of the St Jude’s School for Girls and the Josephine Shaw Transitional Home for Young Women. Her personal motto by which she lives is “Be the adult you needed as a child”, which has served as a motivation to transform families through building resilience and empowering children with a strong sense of self-worth so that they can grow into well rounded and resilient adults.

The other finalists are:

- Victor Joseph- Social Welfare Advisor at the Chaguanas Local Board
- Nyiida Andrews- Inspector I at the Division of Ageing
- Aleena Mohammed-Karamath- Ag. Supervisor at the Chaguanas Local Board

The National Social Development Programme and the National Family Services Division were also recognized for their outstanding efforts in advancing the work of the Ministry.

Also in attendance were a number of Ministers and Government Officials, such as Senator the Honourable Allyson West, Minister of Public Administration; Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry; Commissioner of Police, Erla Harewood-Christopher; and Commissioner of Prison, Deopersad Ramoutar.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services once again congratulates all social workers for their hard work and commitment towards improving the lives of the vulnerable citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

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For more information:

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Minister Cox (left) and the winner of the Social Worker of the Year Awards, Farisha Mohammed, Family Service Social Worker, at the National Family Services Division



(l-r) Sieunarine Coosal, Executive Chairman of Coosal's Group of Companies; Winner of Social Worker of the Year Award, Farisha Mohammed, Minister Cox; Abraham Smith, CEO of Digicel Trinidad and Tobago



Third place winner of the Social Worker of the Year Awards, Nyiida Andrews (left) and the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Wendy Guy-Hernandez (right)



(l-r)Avinash Rampersad, Director of D. Rampersad and Company Ltd ; Luann Joseph who collected on behalf of her father, Victor Joseph, who placed second), Ag. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Ryan Ramcharan; Gertis des Vignes , ICT Product Manager of TSTT



National Director of the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), Patricia DeLeon-Henry (left) collects the Minister's Cup, the highest honours that can be awarded to a department, from Minister Cox.