



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday August 17, 2023

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Priority: HIGH**

#### **Minister Cox meets with Faith Based Organizations to explore ways to collaborate on helping vulnerable persons**

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services met with representatives from various Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) on August 16, 2023 at the Ministry's Head Office on St Vincent Street, Port of Spain. The meeting provided an opportunity for Apostles and Reverends from various denominations to share their strategic and operational plans with the Ministry, ensuring that it aligns with the Ministry's mandate of helping vulnerable persons across the different regions of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on ways in which the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and FBOs can work together to support vulnerable persons in different communities. Minister Cox took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of giving support to persons during times of hardship, particularly emotional support such as counselling. Among those present, was Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Christian Council of San Fernando, who spoke about upcoming plans of the FBOs. Some of these plans included a request to the Government to grant land to members of the Christian community in Trinidad and Tobago in an effort to provide a location for the celebration of Christian faith, and also the establishment of a permanent national day of prayer and thanksgiving.

According to Minister Cox, "The Ministry continues to engage organisations with information on its various grants and services and how such could be accessed by those in need, by delivering relevant and pertinent information about the Ministry's various programmes, grants and services, directly to citizens in their respective communities, with the aim of clarifying issues related to access, whilst treating with concerns and responses from the Ministry. It is important for FBOs to assist the Ministry in reaching those we are unable to reach."

Both parties agreed that interventions are needed in various communities, and that it's important to work together in order to address the social issues facing Trinidad and Tobago today, such as poverty and poor parenting.

In closing, Minister Cox stated that she looks forward to meeting with more faith based organizations and further reassured those present of the Ministry's commitment towards helping, empowering and transforming lives.

In attendance were Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Christian Council of San Fernando; Reverend Judith Honore – Widows Association of T&T; Minister Lesane-Selassie Gabre Yesus – Ethiopian Orthodox Church; Apostle Marva Pecher – Springs of Life Community Development Church; and Minister Duane Samm – Methodist Church.

The Ministry remains committed to collaborating with all sectors to ensure that no one is left behind.

**-End-**

**For more information:**

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Minister Cox and Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Christian Council of San Fernando discuss ways for the Ministry and FBOs to collaborate



(l-r) Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Christian Council of San Fernando; Reverend Judith Honore – Widows Association of T&T; Minister Cox; Minister Lesane-Selassie Gabre Yesus – Ethiopian Orthodox Church; Apostle Marva Pecher – Springs of Life Community Development Church; and Minister Duane Samm – Methodist Church