



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 29 September 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Social Development and Digicel Foundation sign historic agreement

In keeping with its drive to provide equal access to opportunities and resources for persons with disabilities, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services today, September 29, 2023 signed a historic agreement with Digicel Trinidad and Tobago Foundation. This Agreement signals the partnership between the two entities in establishing a multidisciplinary centre in Trinidad and Tobago that will provide rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities.

This centre, the National Therapeutic and Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities will provide medical care and therapeutic services to persons with disabilities (PWDs) in Trinidad and Tobago.

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services launched her remarks commending the Digicel Foundation for their continuous commitment to investing in sustainable development programmes and building stronger, more resilient individuals, families and communities. “This is often achieved through the development and implementation of policies, programmes and initiatives which facilitate the inclusion and promotion of the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities” said the Minister.

According to Minister Cox, “The Centre aims to use a community – based therapeutic approach in order to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities, by providing adequate and effective habilitative and rehabilitative services, thereby reducing the plethora of health conditions, illnesses and injuries that result from their disability.” She further indicated that the Agreement will see the Digicel Foundation procuring physical therapy equipment, occupational therapy equipment, speech therapy resources and behavioural therapy equipment and resources for an Adult Therapy Gym and Paediatric Therapy Gym. Other services to be offered include Speech and

Language Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Behavioural Therapy. Phase 2 would offer Aqua Therapy, Psychological Therapy, Music, Art and Drama.

The Minister also noted the agreement will provide greater access to opportunities for personal and professional development of persons with disabilities, and would therefore allow for the requisite support and guidance to the vulnerable populations in Trinidad and Tobago.

Digicel Foundation CEO, Penny Gomez indicated that this intervention will mean so much to persons with disabilities, as they will get the rehabilitative support and therapy that they need. She also noted that the Digicel Foundation looks forward to see the usage of the centre and the lives that will be positively impacted, and further commended the Minister for making this partnership a priority of the Ministry.

In closing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Lenor Baptiste Simmons and Digicel Foundation CEO, Penny Gomez signed the official agreement to officially seal the partnership.

Among those in attendance were Ag. Permanent Secretary at the Ministry, Ryan Ramcharan; Cindy Ann Currency- Head of Operations, Digicel Foundation; and Dr. Rohit Doon, Consultant and Chairman of the Technical Oversight Committee- NTRC.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to maintaining partnerships in an effort to ensure that the most vulnerable are supported in their most critical time of need.

For more information:

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Minister Cox delivers remarks during the 'Signing of an Agreement between the MSDFS and Digicel Foundation' ceremony held at the Ministry



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Lenor Baptiste Simmons (seated at left) and Digicel Foundation CEO, Penny Gomez signed the official agreement to officially seal the partnership. Ag. Permanent Secretary Ryan Ramcharan; Minister Cox; and Cindy Ann Currency- Head of Operations, Digicel Foundation witnessed the signing



(l-r) Permanent Secretary Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Minister Cox and Digicel Foundation CEO, Penny Gomez discuss the way forward during the 'Signing of an Agreement between the MSDFS and Digicel Foundation' ceremony held at the Ministry earlier today