



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE



Sunday 24th September 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Social Development at Palmiste Family Festival: “Family is the cornerstone of our society”

On Republic Day, September 24, 2023 the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to participate in the Palmiste Family Festival at Palmiste Park in San Fernando. The event, which was hosted by the Palmiste Historical Society, was full of joyous families who were elated to take part in various games and activities.

Delivering remarks on behalf of Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services was Kathleen Sarkar, Assistant Director at the National Family Services Division of the Ministry. Ms. Sarkar launched her remarks stating that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has a critical role in maintaining a social agenda for the protection, provision and development of families within the nation. “The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, we continue to develop and implement initiatives which would help, empower and transform the lives of all family members. Therefore, the Family Festival is indeed welcome and much appreciated, as it is imperative that the family is provided with activities and spaces that provides all the support it needs to navigate these unprecedented times.” said Ms. Sarkar.

According to Ms. Sarkar, “Family is the cornerstone of our society where the foundational needs of individuals are expected to be met. Apart from food, clothing and shelter, families also provide love and security. It is among the family that self-esteem is built, positive values are taught and resilience is fostered.” She further explained that through the National Family Services Division, support is provided to families through counselling services, mediation services and psychosocial support, for issues ranging from behavioural problems in children and adolescents to crisis intervention. “The Division also hosts Parenting Workshops to address the urgent need to develop the basic competencies of parents, provide assistance, guidance and support through simple practical ideas and tools which empower them to become effective parents and grandparents” said Ms. Sarkar.

In closing, she reminded those present that everyone has a part to play in building strong, resilient families in Trinidad and Tobago, and encouraged the members of Palmiste Historical Society, and all Government Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Business Sector representatives



to continue to collaborate with the Ministry, in an effort to bring easier access to the programmes and services provided.

Also in attendance were His Worship, Councillor Robert Parris, Mayor of San Fernando; Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Palmiste Historical Society and Chair, Palmiste Family Festival; Councillor Raven Ramsawak; Rebecca Fortune, President of the Southern Community Archives; and other specially invited guests.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to collaborating with all sectors to ensure that no one is left behind.

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For more information:

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Kathleen Sarkar, Assistant Director of the Ministry's National Family Services Division delivers remarks on behalf of Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, at the Palmiste Family Day



Tree planting ceremony during the Palmiste Family Festival. (L-r) Kathleen Sarkar, Assistant Director of the Ministry's National Family Services Division; Councillor Raven Ramsawak; Sadiq Baksh, Former Government Minister; and Apostle Terrence Honore, President of the Palmiste Historial Society