



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

November 18, 2023

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

#### **Horace Jones marks 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at St. Dominic's RC Church**

Every morning, Mr Horace Jones does his early morning stretches and squats. This in part is what Mr. Jones attributes to attaining the age of one hundred on Friday 17th November 2023.

Originally from Quarry Street in Belmont, the Morvant resident also attributes his longevity to praying daily and being active in his youth as he participated in cricket and bodybuilding up until his late forties.

Surrounded by family, friends and parishioners, Mr. Jones marked his centenary with a special Thanksgiving Mass held in his honour at St. Dominic's R.C. Church in Morvant where Mr Jones has been attending since he moved to Morvant during his teenage years. Fifty-five years ago, Mr Jones married Mazie Rodriguez at the Church. The couple were married for fifty-one years before she passed in 2019 at age seventy-five.

Also attending the service was Member of Parliament for the area and Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, The Honourable Adrian Leonce. Ms Janinka Gomes, Inspector I of the Ministry's Division of Ageing joined the celebration to honour Mr Jones under the National Centenarian Programme.

During the service, Mr Jones was described as a stalwart of the St Dominic's R.C. Church, Morvant community and Lavenille/Morvant Pastoral Men's Group adding that he gave his life to the service of the people in his community and by extension the country. It was also noted that the former foreman for Universal Drying and Heating Shop on Wrightson Road delivered lunches throughout the community of Morvant for fifty-seven years up until age ninety (90).

Delivering on his role as President of the St. Vincent De Paul in Morvant, Ms Yvette Woodruffe indicated that he assumed the role in 1970 and never missed a community, general, or national meeting and always arrived on time. She noted that he executed his duties with accountability, spirituality, and much seriousness adding that "God took care of Mr Jones because he took care of God's people – the vulnerable."

The family of Mr. Jones indicated that the new centenarian remains active and rises daily to say his prayers and place fruit, especially mangoes, for the birds. Longevity also seems to run in the family as his mother Anella Jones, lived to 103.

The Ministry was proud to honour our latest centenarian under the Ministry's National Centenarian Programme and encourage persons to register for the Programme via the Ministry's website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt).



*Mr Jones receives his Certificate of Honour and Achievement from Ms Janinka Gomes, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing.*



*Attendees sing Happy Birthday to the new centenarian.*