



**MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 01 November 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services stands ready  
to assist Victims of Arima Fire**

**Port-of-Spain** --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) stands ready to provide the necessary relief to the nine (9) separate households affected by the fire which took place at #4 Tumpuna Road, Arima on October 26, 2023.

The Ministry was advised that the families were deemed homeless following the fire. As a consequence, those affected are at present, residing at the Malabar Community Centre which was activated as a temporary shelter.

Upon receiving information, the Ministry, as second responder, dispatched Officers from the National Social Development Programme and the National Family Services Division to visit the families earlier today, October 27, 2023. It was found that those affected comprised a total of 14 persons – 11 adults and 3 minors ranging in ages from 68 years to 1 year.

In collaboration with the personnel from the Disaster Management Unit of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, assessments were conducted and the various areas of need identified are as follows:

- Household Items - (up to maximum \$10,000.00) which may include any of the following:
  - ✓ Stove
  - ✓ Fridge
  - ✓ Living Room Set
  - ✓ Dining Room Set
  - ✓ Washing Machine
  - ✓ Kitchen Cupboard
  - ✓ Bed with Mattress
  - ✓ Chest of Drawers
  - ✓ Wardrobe, and
  - ✓ Refrigerator
- Temporary Food Support

- Clothing Grant
- Rental Assistance and
- Counselling/Psychosocial Support

The Ministry issued six (6) temporary food support cards to those present and will return on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to meet with the other household heads to provide additional food support.

A referral is also being made to the National Commission for Help for the reconstruction of the home.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to providing emergency relief to all persons affected by the fire at this time. For all enquiries, and information on disaster relief funding and food support, persons may contact the Ministry's toll-free call centre at 800 – 1MSD (1673)

<ENDS>

**For more information:**

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

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