



## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Priority: **HIGH**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Social Development hosts activities for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023**

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) is committed to the eradication of poverty and as such, joined the international community to commemorate the United Nations' observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) under the theme "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All".

Globally commemorated on October 17, IDEP is aimed at sensitising society on issues affecting persons living in poverty, as well as promoting dialogue and highlighting the realities of the vulnerable.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is the lead social sector institution charged with addressing the challenges of poverty, social inequality, and social exclusion and commemorates IDEP annually.

In support of this year's observance, the Ministry through its Social Investigations Division, launched several activities under the slogan **#EndPovertyTT**. These activities which began on October 17, 2023, are aimed at promoting awareness of poverty-related issues, encouraging transformative actions, and strengthening collaboration in the fight against poverty. One such activity included the Stakeholders' Information Corner located at the Ministry's Head Office. The Stakeholders' Information Corner serves as a centralized hub where staff, clients, and visitors to the Ministry are provided with information on various aspects of multidimensional poverty in Trinidad and Tobago. Staff also had the opportunity to test their knowledge of poverty and related initiatives through the Staff Lunchtime Poverty "Brain-Cooler" Challenge. Staff also wore red on October 17 to reflect the colour of goal one of the Sustainable Development Goals: End Poverty.

Spotlight was also placed on the Ministry's Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) Programme and three recipients of the SEED programme - Ann Marie De Landro-Pinder (Seamstress), Alana Ramlal (Craft/ Jewellery Making) and Khadija Abdal Karim (Confectionary) - displayed their products during the entrepreneurial segment of **#EndPovertyTT**.

During the upcoming weeks, the Ministry will launch its Poverty Spoken Word Competition targeting young persons between the ages of 14 - 18 years to share their perspectives on improving the current social protection system towards ending poverty and building resiliency in Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry will also kick off its "Let's Talk Social – Poverty Edition" to garner real-time public insight into poverty.

**-END-**

**For more information:**  
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*Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox receives a token from Dr Seon Raymond, Director of the Social Investigations Division which contains products from the Ministry's SEED grant entrepreneurs.*



*SEED grant recipient Alana Ramlal speaks to students of the St Augustine Girls High School who visited the Ministry on October 17, 2023 for #EndPovertyWeek.*





*Staff of the Ministry wear red on October 17 with fingers pointed to display the Ministry's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 1: No Poverty.*



*Students of the St Augustine Girls High School take a photo with Ms Ashaki Alexis, Research Officer I of the Ministry's Social Investigations Division.*