



Tuesday, 05 December 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

One hundred and thirty-eight (138) families receive food vouchers

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox joined His Excellency Fang Qiu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic Trinidad and Tobago for a distribution of food vouchers to one hundred and thirty-eight (138) vulnerable and deserving families. The distribution took place today, Tuesday, 5 December 2023 at the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society Headquarters, 7a Fitzblackman Drive, Port of Spain. The beneficiaries were determined by the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society.

Delivering feature remarks, Minister Cox indicated that the initiative led by the Embassy highlights the importance of collaborative efforts in times of need. "I must commend His Excellency Fang Qiu, the Chinese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago for initiating and driving this project that touches the homes of persons across Trinidad and Tobago. Today's ceremony reflects the value and necessity of partnerships and relationships in ensuring that the basic needs of as many vulnerable citizens are being met. This gesture of kindness and giving, ladies and gentlemen, will not only provide sustenance to those facing difficult times, but also demonstrate the compassion and solidarity that define us as a Nation" said Minister Cox.

She further added that the Ministry is actively engaged in developing our National Register of Vulnerable Persons in Trinidad and Tobago which both the Embassy and the Society will be empowered to make use of. "The Register will be a cutting-edge database to collect, store and process information related to ALL vulnerable individuals, groups and families residing in Trinidad and Tobago. This data gathering will help us to have a more targeted approach to helping, empowering and transforming the lives of poor and vulnerable persons in this country. The Ministry intends to launch this project in the near future, and we are confident that future partnerships with both the Chinese Embassy and the Red Cross Society of Trinidad and Tobago will bring additional help to the poor and vulnerable in our society" said the Minister.

In his remarks, His Excellency Fang Qiu, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China told the gathering that the donation is not just a simple act of generosity but is a contribution towards empowering local communities and creating a brighter future for those in need.

He added that the Embassy will continue to work with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and the Red Cross Society to carry out more cooperation in philanthropy, creating a better life for both peoples. Also in attendance was Permanent Secretary Lenor Baptiste-Simmons and Ms. Jill De Bourg, President of Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Society who also delivered remarks.



Minister Cox, joined by His Excellency Fang Qiu, present the food voucher to Ms Venice Lezama.



Minister Cox, His Excellency Fang Qiu and Mr Stephan Kishore (l), Crisis Coordinator of the TTRCS and some recipients take a photo following the distribution of food vouchers at the T&T Red Cross Society.

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For more information:
Communications Unit
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5400-5411
cceu@social.gov.tt