



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE



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Priority: HIGH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister Cox meets with Minister of National Security and TTPS to discuss Fraud and Corruption

Port of Spain--- As part of the ongoing collaboration and partnership with the Ministry of National Security and the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, today convened a meeting to discuss matters related to preventing and addressing corruption and fraudulent activities at the Ministry.

Among the group of vulnerable persons most impacted by fraudulent activity in the Ministry are recipients of Senior Citizens' Pension. Matters being investigated include financial abuse, encashment of pension cheques at supermarkets, use of fake cheques as well as fake identification cards by perpetrators.

Parties at the meeting also included the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds, Minister of National Security, the Head of the Fraud Squad Division, Head of the White Collar Crime Department, both of the TTPS, as well as other representatives from both Ministries.

Among the other items discussed at the meeting were:

- Misrepresentation of deactivated clients
- Falsification of data
- Perpetrators who are encashing cheques(counterfeit) at supermarkets;
- Individuals living abroad and receiving grants
- Cheques of deceased individuals still being encashed
- Stolen Food Cards
- Updates on matters sent to the Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau and the Fraud Squad.
- Data and Information Sharing among parties

In response, National Security Minister expressed his commitment to working closely with the Ministry and offered pertinent advice in order to eradicate the cases of fraud and corruption plaguing the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. Minister Cox ended by stressing the need for ongoing collaboration and frequent meetings as the way forward.

<ENDS>



Minister Cox and National Security Minister the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds discuss fraud and fraud prevention at the Ministry of National Security on January 25, 2024.



Intense Discussion: Minister Cox and National Security Minister the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds discuss matters of fraud and corruption with TTPS and Ministry Technocrats on January 25, 2024.

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