



## MEDIA RELEASE

April 15, 2024

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Norma Puckerin celebrates 100**

*“I have to thank God that He has permitted me to live to a hundred. I thank Him, I praise Him”* said new centenarian Ms. Norma Puckerin at her 100th birthday celebration at her Barataria home on Sunday 14th April, 2024. Scores of family and friends joined the celebration to mark the milestone. Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox was also in attendance.

Ms. Puckerin whose birthday is today, Monday 15th April 2024, shared that she wasn't aware of her family hosting a birthday celebration, as she found contentment in attending church, and receiving blessings from the priest. *“I went to church this morning and the priest blessed me and all the children came and they had me in the centre and it was beautiful. I felt so happy that tears filled my eyes, but I thank God that I will be one hundred tomorrow morning”* she said.

Her deep-rooted faith in God was evident, with every utterance from the new centenarian reflecting gratitude for divine preservation, even when asked about the secret to her longevity by Minister Cox. In her response, the mother of ten said *“Oh God, it's too much to mention. The Heavenly Father, He has kept me and has been my steering wheel. He said Norma don't go here, don't go there and I listened to Him and my children didn't give me much trouble. I said, don't let the police hold you, then you would have no mother because I would collapse. But prayer was the answer, prayer was my steering wheel.”*

Minister Cox then congratulated Ms. Puckerin on achieving the milestone and presented her with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement in recognition of her valuable contribution to Trinidad and Tobago. Ms Puckerin also received her centenarian medal, a birthday cake courtesy of platinum sponsor, the Kiss Baking Company, and a food hamper.

To register for the National Centenarian Programme, please visit the Ministry's website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt) to complete the online form or print a downloadable form for completion. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 to 2009, or 800-OPIC (6742).

-END-



*Minister Cox presents Ms Puckerin with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement*



*Birthday girl, Ms Norma Puckerin*



*Norma's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration – Minister Cox celebrates with new centenarian Norma Puckerin at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024.*



*Minister Cox, Councillor for Baratavia, Kimberly Small (second from right) and Ms Puckerin's children and loved ones take a photo with the new centenarian.*