



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
MEDIA RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sangre Grande Centenarian celebrates 100th Birthday: Drucilla Baptiste credits God, prayer and fresh foods

Drucilla "Dru" Baptiste joined the illustrious centenarian club when she turned one hundred on May 26, 2024, crediting "first and foremost God", as she said without Him, nothing is possible. She further credits prayer and eating fresh healthy food from the garden and the sea. Her favourite bible verse, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

Ms. Baptiste indicated that despite her baptismal name being Elizabeth, she is affectionately known as Dru or Drucilla and shared some fond memories of her upbringing in Manantial.

"I was born in a village called Manantial, hanging over Gran Rivivere on May 26th, 1924. My father's grandmother Mistress Margaret Walcott delivered me as she was a midwife in those days. I attended Gran Rivivere Anglican Primary School and then San Souci Anglican Primary School. I remember a lot of things about Manantial but one vivid memory is that it was an agricultural estate where we had lots of fruits, vegetables and ground provisions. We also ate a lot of fish from the sea because my father owned boats and from time to time, he used to go hunting so we were never hungry," she said.

In imparting wisdom to the younger generation, Ms. Baptiste emphasized the importance of spirituality and respect. "Be respectable. Have respect for the elders and yourselves as well. Be obedient, go to church and pray, even at home or wherever you are and always sing praises to God," said Ms. Baptiste.

She also shared how she met her husband noting that "he met her" and not the other way around. "How I met my spouse, the question is how my spouse met me. The joke was I always had a serious face whenever I would leave the house to conduct business. People would like me but we're always afraid to speak with me. My father was a serious man as well. So one day, this man came calling to pass through our yard, he was going to survey by my neighbour. When he saw me he stopped and started to chat. Every day from that day he would come to look for me and we would talk, and the rest was history," she said.

Among her proudest achievements is the nurturing of her niece, Cylfid, whom she raised as her own daughter.

Ms. Baptiste was visited by Mr. Anderson Cyrus, Inspector I, of the Division of Ageing, who presented her with her Certificate of Honour and Achievement and a birthday cake from the Kiss Baking Company. Ms. Baptiste also received food hampers courtesy Vemco and the National Flour Mills.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was proud to honour Ms. Baptiste and encourages persons to register for the National Centenarian Programme (NCP). To register, please visit the Ministry's website at www.social.gov.tt to complete the online form. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext 2001 to 2009, or 800-OPIC (6742).

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Ms. Drucilla Baptiste displays her Certificate of Honour and Achievement signed by the Minister, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox and Permanent Secretary Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, in recognition of her contribution to the development of Trinidad and Tobago.



Ms. Baptiste is all smiles as she receives her birthday cake from Mr. Anderson Cyrus of the Division of Ageing.

Drucilla Baptiste IV - Ms. Baptiste is surrounded by love as she celebrates her 100th birthday on May 26, 2024.



Mr. Anderson Cyrus, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing, presents Ms. Baptiste with a hamper sponsored by Vemco.

Drucilla Baptiste III - Mr. Anderson Cyrus, Inspector I of the Division of Ageing, presents Ms. Baptiste with a hamper sponsored by the National Flour Mills.