



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### “Brother Sonny” celebrates 100 years

“Thankful to God for his mercies and 100 years of life,” said Mr. Samuel Nero also known as Brother Sonny, who celebrated 100 years of life on the African Emancipation Day holiday, August 1, 2024. True to his faith, the devout Christian and man of God celebrated the milestone with a Prayer and Thanksgiving Service, further crediting his longevity to going to church.

Scores of family, friends, and well-wishers gathered for the celebration, including his sister, Jane Nero-Barriteau, who will celebrate her ninety-third birthday in November. The event was held at his Barataria home, which also housed his business, Unity Furniture. A skilled joiner, a trade he learned from his uncle, Mr. Nero managed his business until he was ninety.

Joining the celebration also was Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox. During her brief remarks, Minister Cox expressed her gratitude to the family for their dedication to the care of their older relatives, emphasising its contribution to their longevity. Minister Cox then presented Mr. Nero with his Certificate of Honour and Achievement, a birthday cake and two hampers from sponsors the Kiss Baking Company Ltd., National Flour Mills and Vemco.

In his greetings, Mr. Nero’s son Wayne spoke about the importance of parenting, emphasizing how his father’s diligence and dedication had profoundly impacted his children, leading them to pursue professions such as nursing, engineering, and accounting. Family members also shared that Mr. Nero was the first deejay in Trinidad and was associated with Unity Rhythm House.

Mr. Nero will celebrate his 44th wedding anniversary with his wife, Eastlyn, this August. They married in August 1980, following the passing of his first wife, Theodora.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was proud to honour Ms. Nero and encourage persons to register for the National Centenarian Programme (NCP). To register, please visit the Ministry’s website at [www.social.gov.tt](http://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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*Minister Cox, along with the new centenarian Mr. Samuel “Sonny” Nero and his wife Eastlyn, at his 100th birthday celebration on August 1, 2024.*



*Minister Cox visits new centenarian, Mr. Samuel "Sonny" Nero, who celebrated his 100th birthday on August 1, 2024, at his Barataria home.*



*Minister Cox presents Mr. Nero with his birthday cake generously sponsored by the Kiss Baking Company Ltd.*