



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**January 30, 2025**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **A Century of Grace: Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Celebrates Gwendolyn 'Gwennie' Forde's 100th Birthday**

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services proudly celebrates the remarkable milestone of yet another centenarian, Ms. Gwendolyn Forde. Born on January 23, 1925, in Princes Town, 'Gwennie' as she is fondly known, joins the esteemed ranks of centenarians in Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry honours her incredible journey of resilience, wisdom, and devotion.

During her visit yesterday, Wednesday January 29, 2025, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, paid a heartfelt tribute to Gwennie, recognizing her extraordinary life and the legacy she has built over the past 100 years. Minister Cox was also joined by Member of Parliament for San Fernando West, the Honourable Faris Al-Rawi S.C.

Reflecting on her early years, Gwennie fondly recalls her childhood in Princes Town, describing it as a wonderful place to grow up. She attended Princes Town A.C. School and later took on a career polishing chairs and tables, a profession that helped support her family. When asked about her secret to longevity, she simply stated, "Always praying."

Through the years, she has remained steadfast in faith, cherishing her favourite prayer, "Hail Mary Full of Grace." She advises younger generations to "Behave and pray," emphasizing the importance of discipline and spirituality.

Now at 100, Gwennie enjoys her days sitting in her chair and watching TV, surrounded by the love of her family. She holds dear the memory of her mother, and when asked about the most impactful event of her life, she smiled and responded, "Seeing my grandchildren." Her greatest source of pride is her son, Godfrey, who has been a pillar of support and joy in her life.

As Gwendolyn Forde embarks on this new century of life, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services extends its heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for her enduring wisdom and grace. Her journey reminds us all that a life of faith, family, and love is truly a life well-lived.

The National Centenarian Programme continues to highlight the lives of those gems among us, who have reached 100 years and beyond. This initiative not only acknowledges their longevity but also ensures that centenarians receive the care, support, and recognition they deserve. Through this programme, the Ministry celebrates their invaluable contributions to society and preserves their rich history for generations to come.

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. For more information, persons may contact the Division of Ageing at 623 – 2608; Ext. 2001 to 2009, or 800-OPIC (6742).



**Caption:** Minister Donna Cox in a reflective conversation with centenarian Gwendolyn "Gwennie" Forde at her 100th birthday celebration.



**Caption:** Centenarian Gwendolyn "Gwennie" Forde proudly marks a century of resilience, faith, and love.



**Caption:** Minister Cox presents centenarian Gwendolyn "Gwennie" Forde with a commemorative medal in honour of her 100th birthday.



**Caption:** Minister Cox; ‘Gwennie’; San Fernando West M.P., the honourable Faris Al- Rawi (L) and Director of Division of Ageing, Mrs. Kathleen Sarkar at the celebration yesterday.

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