



MEDIA RELEASE

January 27, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

National Social Development Programme Distributes \$2.9M in Home Repair Grants to Strengthen Vulnerable Communities

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services today, Monday January 27, 2025 hosted a Home Repair Grant Distribution Ceremony at the Upper Eldorado Community Centre. The event, which underscored the government's commitment to improving the living conditions of vulnerable citizens, saw the distribution of grants worth \$2.9 million to more than 200 households across Trinidad, through the National Social Development Programme (NSDP).

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, delivered an impactful address, highlighting the importance of social development in building a stronger nation. In her speech, Minister Cox remarked, *"Every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago deserves the opportunity to live with dignity, security, and stability. Today, we are extending a hand of support, compassion, and solidarity to those who need it most. These grants are more than just financial assistance; they are a testament to your government's commitment to ensuring that every citizen has a safe and dignified place to call home."*

Minister Cox emphasized the significance of proper housing as a foundation for a better quality of life and elaborated on the Ministry's dedication to empowering citizens to create better futures. The Home Repair Grant initiative targets vulnerable groups including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, single-parent households, and victims of domestic violence.

The grants distributed today cover a range of essential repairs, including:

- **Minor House Repair Assistance:** 115 applicants, benefiting 360 households, with a total investment of \$1,708,057.00.
- **Sanitary Plumbing Assistance:** 46 applicants, benefiting 152 households, with a total investment of \$628,236.00.
- **House Wiring Assistance:** 44 applicants, benefiting 151 households, with a total investment of \$561,205.00.

In total, 205 applicants received assistance, impacting 663 households, with a collective investment of \$2,897,498.00.

Minister Cox continued, *“Through these grants, we are not simply addressing immediate needs; we are investing in the future of our citizens. These grants represent a catalyst for social transformation, ensuring that vulnerable individuals and families are empowered to improve their living conditions and create better opportunities for themselves.”*

The ceremony also highlighted the NSDP’s ongoing efforts to address the social challenges of poverty, inequality, and exclusion. The Home Repair Grant Programme exemplifies the government’s vision of providing a hand up, rather than a hand out, to those in need.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, through the NSDP, remains committed to supporting vulnerable communities. As Minister Cox concluded, “Together, with the partnership of government, civil society, businesses, and the citizens we serve, we will continue to build a nation where the conditions for success are available to everyone, no matter their circumstances.

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Caption: Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services delivers the feature address at the NSDP Home Repair Grant Distribution Ceremony.



Caption: Mr. Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary, ag (front left); Mrs Wendy Guy-Hernandez Deputy Permanent Secretary (2nd from left), and Mrs. Vera Deonanan- Balakaran, Deputy Permanent Secretary (3rd from left), among attendees at the Home Repair Grant Distribution Ceremony.



Caption: Minister Cox (centre); Mrs. Lenor Baptiste- Simmons, Permanent Secretary (4th from right) and Ms. Patricia De Leon Henry, Director, NSDP with recipients of the Home Repair Grant.



Caption: Minister Cox with a Home Repair Grant Recipient



Caption: Minister Cox presents a recipient with her Home Repair Grant

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