



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Social Development Ministry Launches 2024/2025 Parenting Programme Workshops

Port of Spain- “Strengthening families is not just a moral imperative. It is a necessity for building a sustainable, prosperous future for Trinidad and Tobago,” said Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, during her feature address at the launch of the 2024/2025 edition of the National Parenting Programme.

The Programme launch was held earlier today (Wednesday, November 20, 2024) at the Port of Spain City Corporation. Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Communications and Member of Parliament for Diego Martin Central, the Honourable Symon de Nobriga; Director of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Sheldon Cyrus and Permanent Secretary at the Ministry Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons also delivered remarks. This year’s launch coincided with the annual observance of International Children’s Day, dedicated to honouring the rights and well-being of children around the world and, International Men’s Day celebrated on November 19, 2024.

Recognising the vital role that society plays in nurturing and safeguarding children and their future, Minister Cox conveyed that the Ministry recognises the urgent need to provide parents with, not only the basic skills required for effective parenting, but also with the emotional, psychological, and social resources needed to raise resilient, well-adjusted children, hence the continued workshops to empower parents. According to Minister Cox, “it is in this context that we are particularly excited to announce this cycle of community-based Parenting Workshops, which is an essential part of our ongoing commitment to support families. These workshops will cover a range of topics that address the diverse needs of parents and guardians, offering both foundational knowledge and practical strategies to help them navigate the challenges of raising children in today’s world.”

Minister Cox also highlighted some key upcoming initiatives of the National Family Services Division, which include a Seminar for Parents of Children with Disabilities to focus on fostering Growth, Understanding, Inclusion, Development, and Empowerment, the Becoming Trinidad and Tobago (BeTNT) Parenting Workshops scheduled to begin in East Port of Spain in November 2024, additional workshops expanding to various Community Centres across the country, the Family Fun Fest – Family Services Expo in April 2025, and the Thriving as a Mom Seminar in May 2025.

Minister Cox further expressed her confidence that the Parenting Workshops will not only be informative, but serve as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of our families, and by extension, in the life of our nation.

Booth displays featuring representatives from the National Parent Teacher Association, the Children's Authority, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service -Victim and Witness Support Unit, and the National Family Services Division of the Ministry were also a key feature of the event.

The Parenting Workshops will be held in person at the Diego Martin Central Community Centre on November 27, 28, and 29, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Workshops have also begun at the Arima New Government Primary School. For more information on upcoming workshops, the public is encouraged to visit the MSDFS website at www.social.gov.tt.

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For more information:

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(l-r) Minister Cox (c) is flanked by Director of the National Family Services Division, Ms. Mary Bastien; Permanent Secretary, MSDFS Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons; Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Communications and Member of Parliament for Diego Martin Central, the Honourable Symon de Nobriga and Director of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago Mr. Sheldon Cyrus following the launch of the Ministry's Parenting Programme.



Minister Cox (third from left) is joined by staff of the National Parent-Teacher Association (NPTA) including its president Mr. Walter Stewart (third from right).



Minister Cox chats with Director of the National Family Services Division, Ms Mary Bastien (r) and His Worship, Alderman Chinua Alleyne, Mayor of Port-of-Spain (l) following the ceremony.