



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Minister Cox Engages Port of Spain Councillors in Strengthening Community Support Through Social Services

In an effort to strengthen collaboration and improve community support, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, met yesterday, Monday February 3, 2025 with councillors and aldermen of the Port of Spain City Corporation. The meeting focused on equipping local government representatives with critical information about the Ministry's programmes and services, enabling them to better serve the burgesses in their respective communities.

During the session, Minister Cox delivered a presentation titled *Towards a Transformed Society*, outlining key social support initiatives available through the Ministry. She emphasized the importance of municipal leadership in connecting citizens to essential services. "By working together, we can ensure that those in need have greater access to the support available to them," she stated.

Also in attendance was Deputy Mayor of Port of Spain, Councillor Abena Hartley, Permanent Secretary, MSDFS, Mr. Ryan Ramcharan, Deputy Permanent Secretary, MSDFS, Mrs Wendy Guy- Hernandez and heads of various service delivery units of the Ministry. These senior officials were on hand to further elaborate on the range of services provided. The session was interactive, allowing aldermen and councillors to ask questions and receive the necessary information to better assist their communities.

Councillors and aldermen welcomed the engagement, recognizing its value in strengthening social service delivery within the city. They expressed their commitment to utilizing the insights gained to assist their communities more effectively.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains dedicated to fostering partnerships with key stakeholders to enhance social support systems and improve the well-being of citizens across the nation.



Caption: Deputy Mayor, POS, Councillor Abena Hartley engages in discussion on available Social Services



Caption: Minister Cox and Deputy Mayor, POS Councillor Abena Hartley (r) listen intently as councillors discuss issues raised by members of the public.



Caption: Councillor Nicole Young, Belmont East, seeks clarifications from Ministry representatives on ways that members of the public can access social services.



Caption: Councillors and Aldermen from the POS City Corporation listen attentively as Minister Cox delivers her presentation on key social support initiatives available through the Ministry.



Caption: Minister Cox presents Deputy Mayor, POS, Councillor Abena Hartley with literature on the grants and services offered by the Ministry.