



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Social Development Minister tours construction site for the Assessment Centre and Temporary Housing Facility for the Socially Displaced

Port of Spain, April 9, 2025- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is on the brink of bringing to fruition a first of its kind Assessment Centre and Temporary Housing Facility for the Socially Displaced. During a tour of the construction site today Wednesday April 9, 2025, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services lauded the projected impact of the state-of-the art 5- storey facility, which will hold up to 200 persons, including five family units.

Minister Cox stated that assessment is key in ensuring that the temporary housing is offered to those in need. "It's a case by case basis after the assessment is done. It would be three months in the first instance, and if necessary we will work according to the situation.", she explained. The facility will offer a range amenities including dormitories for both male and female clients, as well as a training room, kitchen, dining room, laundry facility and recreational area.

Minister Cox also disclosed that the facility is expected to be completed by October of this year. She said that the issue of ensuring that the Ministry is able to successfully remove persons from off of the streets, and into the new facility, will be addressed in coming legislation. Currently, municipal police assist in that process. His Worship Alderman Chinua Alleyne, Mayor of Port of Spain was on hand during the tour and in high praise of the work of the Ministry. He stated, "As you know there are some challenges that we have with the most vulnerable in society, the socially displaced, and the government has seen it fit to put in place this facility to attend to their needs."

The facility is expected to serve as a viable alternative to being on the streets, providing clients with a continuum of care. Medical, psychiatric and social assessments will be provided to clients, leading to the end goal of complete rehabilitation.

For more information:

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Caption: Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services in discussion with His Worship Alderman Chinua Alleyne, Mayor of Port of Spain.



Caption: Minsiter Cox with Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary (ag) (left) and Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary (right), as they listen intently to Azriel Gabriel, Project Manager, Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago (UDECOTT) give an update on the construction project.



Caption: The site of the new Assessment Centre and Temporary Housing Facility for the Socially Displaced at South Quay, Port of Spain.