

Welcome Remarks

Permanent Secretary (Ag) Sheila Seecharan
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Launch of Poverty Week 2020

Ground Floor

12 p.m.

Salutations

- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services
- Deputy Permanent Vijay Gangapersad
- Mr. Michael Reid, Chief Technical Officer
- Various Heads of Divisions
- Staff
- Clients of the Ministry

Good afternoon,

I am pleased to welcome all of you to the Ministry's launch of Poverty Week 2020, which is held annually in commemoration of the United Nation's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on October 17th. This afternoon signals the start of a month of activities by the Social Investigations Division, which is the Ministry's central coordinating research unit for the social sector. As such, the Division is primarily responsible for:-

- The monitoring of trends and indicators related to current local and international research studies in the social sector;
- The determination of a research policy and agenda for the social sector, in collaboration with other ministries and
- The conduct of annual reviews of socio-economic performance and the preparation of reports that examine social conditions, problems and needs at the regional, national and community levels.

I am therefore confident that today's exhibit and all subsequent activities in support of Poverty Week 2020, will be impactful and instructive as it relates to the Ministry's portfolio for the eradication of poverty, social injustices and inequalities by the year 2030. When considered comprehensively, it is a huge mandate but I remain confident in the discipline and competencies of the Executive and staff of the Ministry, to meet and exceed all measurable expectations.

As we move forward, it is critical that the Executive and staff of the Ministry continue to work *hand in hand* to ensure that we share the same vision and drive. To this end, I readily applaud forums such as these, where staff can exhibit their knowledge and competencies creatively, and earn the support of their peers. Given that this is also my first participation in Poverty Week at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, I consider the event to be a fantastic way in which we can engage or re-engage persons, as part of the overall thrust to become a client-centered and high performance organisation.

Thank you again for the invitation to be here and may God richly bless you.