



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY  
SERVICES**

**DRAFT**

**NSDP Grant Distribution**

**WELCOME REMARKS**

**PERMANENT SECRETARY  
MS JACQUELINE JOHNSON**

Tuesday July 20<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am

## **SALUTATIONS**

- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services
- Permanent Secretary, Ms. Sheila Seecharan;
- Deputy Director of the National Social Development Programme, Ms Maricia Patterson;
- Other Heads of Divisions and Staff at the MSDFS;
- Recipients of the NSDP Grant;
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this Distribution Ceremony for the beneficiaries of the National Social Development Programme's Grant.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services understands the necessity of citizens having access to basic utilities to enjoy their lives. In keeping with our mandate to ensure that no individual or family is left behind, the Ministry continues to provide eligible citizens of Trinidad and Tobago with financial assistance with the aim of improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable. Grants are provided to facilitate the improvement of the physical conditions of their houses through minor structural repairs, improvement to sanitary plumbing, and electrical wiring installations or upgrades.

Habitat for Humanity International has noted that new and improved homes are intricately tied to better opportunities for families. Therefore, the Ministry, in its continuous pursuit to align with the tenets

of the National Development Strategy, has prioritized the need to ensure access to decent housing.

Please permit me to take a moment to highlight the criteria for eligibility of this grant. Applicants must be citizens and residents of Trinidad and Tobago who are 18 years and over; meet financial suitability as determined by the application of the Standard Means Test and must either own or have authorization to repair the property. Furthermore, applicants who are recipients of the Senior Citizens Pension, Public Assistance Grant, or other Ministry grants and services; those suffering from a disability, individuals referred by various divisions within the Ministry and victims of disasters are also eligible to receive the grant.

In closing, I extend an invitation to persons who wish to access this service and other Ministry initiatives and programmes to visit our website: [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt) and our various social media platforms so that you can avail yourself of the services offered by the Ministry. COVID-19 continues to impact us, so I encourage you to be safe at all times, by moving about only when necessary.

Once again, I welcome all.