



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of the People, Social Development and Family Services

The Honourable Vandana Mohit
Minister of the People Social Development and Family
Services
on the occasion of the

Grant Distribution Ceremony for Penal / Debe, Siparia
and Environs

Saturday 20th September 2025
2:00PM

The Penal/ Debe Regional Corporation

Good evening to the resilient people of Penal, Debe, Siparia, and the surrounding communities. It gives me immense pride to stand among you today, not merely for the distribution of grants, but for the reaffirmation of a principle that lies at the heart of governance that the people are always first.

Today's ceremony represents more than financial support, it symbolizes the presence of your Government in your lives, listening, responding and delivering. These grants are not to be mistaken as handouts, but rather as hand-ups, carefully designed to steady households, to restore dignity, and to kindle hope in families across this region.

I will not pretend that the road to this moment has been without difficulty. Far too many of you have endured the frustration of waiting, the anxiety of not knowing when relief would come, and the challenge of stretching one dollar to cover the needs of ten.

I have listened to the elderly who whisper of their worries, to mothers who sacrifice for their children, and to families that rise each morning with burdens heavier than they deserve to carry.

We know the delays, we know the disappointments, and we know the strain etched into your lives. And because we know, we act.

On the 21st of August, 2025, this Government approved a new Cabinet Minute and with it came a renewed determination to improve the speed and fairness of delivery within the Ministry of the People, Social Development and Family Services. A fresh administrative mechanism was set in motion, a mechanism built on the understanding that the vulnerable cannot wait.

Our mission is to replace cumbersome processes with efficiency, to move away from bottlenecks and into streamlined service, to ensure that every grant reaches its rightful beneficiary with urgency and care.

What we witness today is not simply an isolated distribution. It is evidence of a system in motion, of the Government keeping its promise, of this Ministry working tirelessly to ensure that the grants flow more swiftly to those in need.

Let me assure you that while there are still challenges to overcome and while there are still citizens awaiting their turn, the Ministry is working assiduously, day and night, to close the gap.

We will not rest until every citizen who qualifies is given the support they deserve and until this Ministry becomes a model of people-centred delivery.

These grants reach into every aspect of life. They help the vulnerable child preparing for school, the elderly man striving for food security, the family rebuilding after tragedy, the mother holding together her household against the odds.

They support farmers in the southern communities, they steady households in rural districts, and they assist the unemployed who long for the chance to stand on their own feet once more.

This breadth of impact is why we remain resolute. Because these grants are not numbers on a page, they are lifelines that sustain the very fabric of our nation.

So let us understand the significance of today. It is not only about financial aid being placed in hands.

It is a statement to the country that no citizen will be abandoned, no community will be left behind, no voice will go unheard.

This Government is determined to build a Trinidad and Tobago where compassion is not an empty word but a policy in action, where equity is not a distant dream but a reality lived by every household.

And so, I close with this commitment: we will continue to push forward with urgency and resolve. We will build systems that reflect the dignity of our people. We will deliver support that uplifts, not merely sustains.

And we will never forget that the Ministry of the People exists for the people, all the people, from north to south, east to west.

Let today's ceremony echo beyond Penal, Debe, Siparia and environs.

Let it resonate across the nation as proof that your Government is at work, your Ministry is moving, and your future is being safeguarded.

Together, let us press on, hand in hand, towards a Trinidad and Tobago where every citizen can live with dignity, security, and hope.

I thank you, and may God bless each of you and bless our nation.