



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Over 100 housing subsidies distributed in Tobago

Port of Spain [July 12, 2024] – Over 100 housing subsidies have been distributed in Tobago this year, Minister of Housing and Urban Development Camille Robinson-Regis told a subsidy distribution ceremony in Scarborough on Tuesday (July 9, 2024). Addressing the ceremony at the Shaw Park Complex, she underscored the importance of this initiative and its far-reaching benefits for the people of Tobago.

She said: "With \$3.19 million – \$1.85 million for Home Construction Subsidies and \$1.36 million for Home Improvement Subsidies – we are not merely distributing funds; we are sowing the seeds of empowerment." She noted that this year alone, 105 disbursements have been issued in Tobago, including 68 Home Improvement Subsidies and 37 Home Construction Subsidies.

Robinson-Regis highlighted the remarkable progress since this government started the programme, noting that "since 2021, we have disbursed 232 subsidies in Tobago, valued at \$7.85 million. This includes 107 Home Construction Subsidies worth \$5.35 million and 125 Home Improvement Subsidies worth \$2.5 million."

Minister Robinson-Regis further stressed the socio-economic benefits of the programme saying, "The socio-economic benefits of these programmes are truly profound. Imagine the impact of \$20.39 million, projected for the 2024/2025 fiscal year, going towards improving the lives of 703 families in Trinidad and Tobago."

Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce praised the transparency and fairness of the process, saying this ensures that every beneficiary truly deserves the support they receive from taxpayers. Leonce also commended the resourcefulness and resilience of Tobago's beneficiaries who have successfully constructed homes within budget, demonstrating remarkable ingenuity.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs and Member of Parliament for Tobago East Ayanna Webster-Roy said: “You all are very fortunate. You all are getting a start which this country girl didn’t get.” She had shared with the gathering the story of how she built her first home in Goodwood, without any subsidy but with faith and savings, little by little.

“As Tobagonians we take pride in owning a little piece of the land, and when we have the opportunity to build on that little piece of the land, it becomes a legacy for generations,” Minister Webster-Roy said.

Minister of Sport and Community Development and Member of Parliament for Tobago West Shamfa Cudjoe-Lewis told beneficiaries at the event that the subsidies are “about making a comfortable home for yourselves, and providing opportunities for your children.” She too praised the process for its “predictability, reliability and transparency.”

Following the ceremony, Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce, Members of Parliament for Tobago East Ayanna Webster-Roy and for Tobago West Shamfa Cudjoe led a team of Ministry officials on site visits to ongoing construction sites of some of the programme’s beneficiaries at Courland, Black Rock, Bon Accord, Concordia and Mason Hall.

- ENDS -

About the HIS and HCS

The Home Improvement Subsidy provides funding of up to TT\$20,000 per beneficiary household, to assist families with needed home improvements. This subsidy is issued on a matching basis.

The Home Construction Subsidy provides funding of up to TT\$50,000 to assist families with the construction of a new housing solution. The PMCEU may provide house plans, and estimated costs for low-cost housing solutions within the Programme's Ceiling of \$300,000 in Trinidad or \$350,000 in Tobago.



HOUSING SUPPORT: Minister of Housing and Urban Development Camille Robinson-Regis (5th from left) is joined by Minister of Sport and Community Development Shamfa Cudjoe (4th from right), Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce (2nd from right) and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs Ayanna Webster-Roy (4th from left) and Tobago beneficiaries of the Affordable Housing Subsidy programme at a distribution ceremony at the Shaw Park Complex in Scarborough on July 9, 2024.



HOUSING SUPPORT: Minister in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development Adrian Leonce (centre) makes a point to Minister of Sport and Community Development Shamfa Cudjoe (left), and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs Ayanna Webster-Roy (right) during visits to subsidy beneficiaries' construction sites in Tobago on July 10, 2024.