



NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR SELF HELP LIMITED

"Empowering Communities Since 1987"

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SELF HELP LTD

AN AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF SPORT & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

NEWSLETTER



Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts and the Commission's CEO Elroy Julien assist Ms. Reena Mahabir as they lift materials to take up to her home standing atop the dirt pathway.

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NCSHL LENDING A HELPING HAND

The National Commission For Self Help Limited, led by then Line Minister Dr. the Hon. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, arranged a site visit on Wednesday 22nd April 2020 to the Penal home of Ms. Reena Mahabir, a mother of ten. The family home was adversely impacted by a rainstorm which caused severe damaged to the roof and infrastructure of her family home. The Commission was present to assist with the handing over of building materials for extensive repairs to the existing structure. Grants of up to \$25,000 in value are awarded for repairs to properties affected by natural disasters and allow for the provision of materials by the Commission, while the community provides the labour.

HELP HAND-DELIVERED TO RECIPIENTS BY MINISTER AND NCSHL CEO

The Commission continues to provide assistance based on its mandate to support those that are financially and or physically challenged, giving them an opportunity to improve their quality of living. See highlights of these distributions below.



Mr. Neil Bissoo receives an ERRAG (Emergency Repairs/Reconstruction Assistance Grant) valued up to \$25,000 and a care package from Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts and Self Help's CEO Elroy Julien, while Mr. Bissoo's wife, Samdaye Baldeo is seated on the sofa.

Ms. Ramdaye Ramsaran receives a MRRG (Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant) valued up to \$15,000 from Minister Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, for materials to repair her roof after a tree fell on her home (seen in the distance) during a rainstorm. Assisting Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly are CEO Elroy Julien along with the Deputy Chairman of the Commission's Board of Directors Mrs. Janice Perouse-Sullivan.





Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts presents a MRRG to Mr. Raghoonanan Samaroo's son, to repair his home (seen in the background). Also present were the Deputy Chairman of NCSHL's Board of Directors Mrs. Janice Perouse Sullivan, the Commission's CEO Elroy Julien and Snr. Project Officer Mr. Gary Romain.

HELP FOR FIRE VICTIM

On the weekend of April 18th, 2020 a fire claimed the home of Ms. Joycelyn Joseph and her family in Claxton Bay. The Commission's Emergency Repairs/Reconstruction Assistance Grant (ERRAG) valued at \$25,000 will assist Ms. Joseph as she works to rebuild her home.



Ms. Joycelyn Joseph, seated on the porch of a neighbour's home, receives an ERRAG valued up to \$25,000 from Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, assisted by the Commission's CEO, Mr. Elroy Julien and Deputy Chairman of the Commission's Board, Mrs. Janice Perouse Sullivan.



Mr. Marvin Joseph, son of Joycelyn Joseph, gives the COVID-19 elbow bump to the Commission's CEO while at the site of the burnt rubble of what was once his family's Claxton Bay home.

RIBBON CUTTING EXERCISE FOR ROAD OPENINGS



Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts (center) is flanked by residents of Mc Carthy Street as she gets ready to cut the ribbon for the symbolic opening of the newly constructed roadway. The Commission's CEO Mr. Elroy Julien and Deputy Chairman of the Board Mrs. Janice Perouse Sullivan were also present at the ceremony.

Two communities within the St. Ann's East constituency, witnessed ribbon cutting exercises for official road openings at Ramkissoon Trace, Santa Cruz Old Road, San Juan and Mc Carthy Street, Cantaro Village, Perouse Avenue.

The pathway to these residents' homes was unpaved and posed a challenge to be navigated daily. Led by Member of Parliament for St. Ann's East Dr. the Honorable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly and the National Commission for Self Help Limited, a roadway of two hundred and forty-six feet (246 ft.) in length was constructed on preexisting terrain, at a cost of One Hundred and Eight Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-five dollars (\$108,375.00). The impressive construction greatly minimizes the occurrence of mishaps and dust which could negatively impact the health of the residents in that area.

The roadway at Mc Carthy Street, Cantaro Village, Perouse Avenue which is two hundred and ninety-eight feet (298 ft.) in length, was constructed on the preexisting terrain, at a cost of One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand, Three Hundred and Ten dollars and Eight cents (\$115,310.08).

We expect these development projects to act as a reminder to persons to use each day as an opportunity to continuously develop themselves into becoming stronger, industrious and resilient citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

Our organization remains passionate and committed to providing assistance to communities in need.

FAREWELL DR. THE HONOURABLE NYAN GADSBY-DOLLY



Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts and the Commission's CEO exchange tokens of appreciation at the Commission's Tropical Wave distribution ceremony.

Our former Line Minister Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly has been appointed as the Minister of Education. We take this opportunity to congratulate her on the next step in serving our nation as well as to express our gratitude for her commitment to the National Commission For Self Help Limited and to highlight her achievements over the last five (5) years 2015-2020.

Minister Dolly has unwaveringly championed and supported our agency's efforts and initiatives to alleviate poverty in Trinidad and Tobago while displaying firm but amiable leadership. The Honourable Minister has brought to fruition the improvement of infrastructure of several community projects including road construction and paving, structural improvement and carpark paving of religious facilities, the Roxborough Police Youth Club and the Lorna Lashley Children's Home in Tobago.

Thank you!
"We Appreciate You"

THE NCSHL TEAM

Additionally, Minister Gadsby-Dolly has overseen the following:-

- Construction of bridges and retaining walls,
- Drainage to assist with the alleviation of flooding,
- 57 grant distribution ceremonies,
- Response to victims of natural disasters and fires,
- Structural improvements to facilities of cultural and religious groups.

Minister Dolly, thank you for positioning the Commission to shine as the leading agency in stimulating communities to alleviate poverty and transform lives.

Best wishes to you!

NCSHL COVID-19 RESPONSE

At The National Commission For Self Help Limited, we too have ensured that all our applicants, visitors and members of staff are met with a clean and safe environment.

The Commission has outfitted our buildings' entrances with hand-washing sinks and hand dryers to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Why hand dryers and not paper towels?

PROS of Hand Dryers	CONS of Paper Towels
Cost effective over time	Not cost effective over time
Reduces carbon footprint -environmentally friendly	Untidiness due to improper disposal
No waste disposal	Clutter associated with garbage receptacles



"Sanitize Your Hands Regularly"



The National Commission For Self Help Limited utilized signage at high traffic areas of our offices, noting the habits of the “New Normal” which include social/physical distancing, good hygiene practices, the use of face masks, hand washing and sanitization.

COVID-19 changed the world and forced us to adapt in tough and unpredictable circumstances. At the Commission, the work of our staff continued, notwithstanding the pandemic. In particular, Project Officers were outfitted with face shields and masks as their risk of exposure is heightened during field visits. Our organization reminds you to be your brother's keeper as we navigate the “New Normal”.

INTRODUCTION OF EAP SERVICES



"EAP Can Help You to Cope with Life's Challenges"

The Commission cares about the well-being of its fifty (50) employees and to show appreciation for members of staff, an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) was implemented.

The month of June saw the commencement of the EAP orientation via Zoom led by Mr. Hanif E.A. Benjamin, President and CEO of The Center for Human Development. The Center for Human Development was created to meet the psychological, counselling, training and development needs of the people of Trinidad & Tobago, both regionally and internationally and prides itself on the success they have had while working with organizations.

Taking care of one's physical well-being is a popular focus for many but mental well-being is sometimes given minimal attention. However, it is important that mental well-being be at the forefront of human development, particularly in the workplace.

Here are some of the rewards of EAP programs:-

Confidentiality – EAP can be used to discuss sensitive issues in complete confidence. The employer is not notified of employee visits, therefore diminishing concerns of a lack of privacy.

Free of charge – Sessions are provided at no cost to employees, and are unlimited.

24hr access to services – Sessions are available at your convenience.

Contact information:

Telephone: (868) 235-5181/317-3471/374-9814;

Email: thecentre@livelifewelltt.org

Website: www.livelifewelltt.rg

Variety of meeting options – In person or remote meetings using tools such as Zoom, Skype and WhatsApp are also available.

Leads to increased productivity – Employees perform well when they are not distracted by personal concerns. This reduces sick leave and absenteeism which negatively impact the organization.

Encourages a positive work environment – When an employee experiences a reduction in stress-levels, this positively impacts co-workers.

Leads to increased employee retention – A positive work environment assists in retaining talented employees who want to see the organization increase its performance and productivity.

The EAP implementation was well received by the Commission's staff as they believe it will position the organization to be of better service to its clients and citizens of Trinidad & Tobago.

SELF HELP DISTRIBUTES \$12.6 M TO ASSIST OVER 600 FAMILIES



More than 600 families across Trinidad and Tobago received their purchase orders between March – September 2020, to be taken to their specific area hardware stores, after which they will commence home construction. To date, Twelve Million, Six Hundred Thousand dollars (\$12,600,000.00) was distributed to assist those families most in need.

Two of our largest distributions during this period were those held for the constituents of South Trinidad and victims of the tropical wave that impacted constituents of East Trinidad.

South Trinidad saw a total of One Hundred and Thirty (130) persons receiving MRRGs and ERRAGs while the tropical wave distribution saw One Hundred (100) persons receiving the same types of grants.

While the Commission works assiduously to deliver aide, it is our hope that applicants recognize the vast numbers of persons who request assistance. The Commission thanks you for your patience in the application and approval processes.

NCSHL DISTRIBUTION CEREMONIES

Grant Distribution Ceremonies took place in the constituencies of La Horquetta, St. Joseph, Diego Martin North East, Arima, Arouca/Maloney, Mt. Hope, San-Fernando, Siparia, Oropouche East and Tobago to name a few. Members of Parliament, along with community representatives, were delighted to distribute grants to their constituents which consisted of Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grants (MRRGs) valued up to \$15,000, Emergency Repairs/Reconstruction Grants (ERRAGs) valued up to \$25,000 and Development Projects. Area representatives took pride in knowing these grants would bring a level of comfort to recipients, as their homes, roadways and communities would be improved.



Minister of Health - Terrence Deyalsingh presents a grant to a tropical wave victim.



The Commission's CEO Mr. Elroy Julien presents a Development Project Grant to Chief Hernandez of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community for the construction of a watchtower at their headquarters.



Former Minister of Education/Member of Parliament for Arima, Mr. Anthony Garcia presents a grant to an Arima constituent.



Member of Parliament for Arouca/Maloney, Camille Robinson-Regis distributes grants to the elderly and other deserving constituents.

CEO MAKES SITE VISIT TO FAMILY IN NEED

Self Help's CEO Elroy Julien visited the home of Kenroy and Sherry-Ann Joseph, Diego Martin parents of seven (7), whose plight for assistance was carried on local news, when their two-storey home located on a Diego Martin hillside was in need of structural reinforcement.

The path of rugged ground leading to Ms. Joseph's home is both narrow and winding making the daily commute for everyday activities strenuous. The Josephs currently do not hold stable jobs, a factor making it difficult for them to improve their current living situation.

With this in mind, our organization's team was present to ensure that the Josephs received the materials required to assist with the stabilization of their home.

The Commission recognizes that there are many persons in need and adheres to a prioritization process that assesses the severity of needs and then treats these as a matter of urgency.



Sherry-Ann Joseph makes her way up the steep trail to her home in the hilltops of Factory Road, Diego Martin. CEO Elroy Julien follows closely behind to gain first-hand knowledge of the conditions under which Ms. Joseph lives.



NCSHL's CEO chats with Ms. Joseph (seated) and her husband Kenroy Joseph (standing right) about the ERRAG (Emergency Repairs/Reconstruction Assistance Grant) valued up to \$25,000 that they would receive for their home improvement.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR BRIDGE IN TOBAGO



The Commission's CEO,
Elroy Julien.



Secretary of Infrastructure,
Quarries and the Environment,
Councillor Kwesi Des Vignes.



From left, MP for Tobago East, Ayanna Webster-Roy, CEO of
the Commission, Elroy Julien and Mr. Ritchie Toppin,
Administrator, DIQE.

On Tuesday 9th June, 2020 The National Commission For Self Help Limited (NCSHL) and the Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment (DIQE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment in Tobago.

The MOU establishes the operating framework for collaboration between the NCSHL and DIQE in the construction of a bridge at Grande Gully, Goodwood, Tobago. More than 45 residents will benefit from the construction of the single lane bridge which would be a solution for residents, should the river burst its banks in the rainy season.

Currently, a 12-inch slab is used by residents to get to and from Grande Gully. A 36ft bridge is scheduled to replace the slab within a three (3) month time frame.

The Commission will provide the bridge and DIQE will take responsibility for its installation and maintenance. MP for Tobago East and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ayanna Webster-Roy, as well as Secretary of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment, Councillor Kwesi Des Vignes delivered brief remarks at the MOU Signing.

Signatories for the MOU were Elroy Julien, CEO, NCSHL and Ritchie Toppin, Administrator, DIQE. It was witnessed by Julien Celestine, Project Officer, NCSHL; and Abigail Daniel, Senior Project Coordinator, URP, Tobago.

AWARENESS AND PREPARATION

HSE Committee

The Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Committee at the Commission is responsible for ensuring the safety of all personnel conducting work, as well as visitors to our offices and areas of operation.

Training and education exercises are conducted to minimize risks and ensure that persons are able to identify hazards to keep themselves safe.

The following is a list of key achievements of the HSE Committee:

- A Fire and Emergency Response Training facilitated by firefighters of T&T Fire Service, was conducted for sixteen (16) members of staff.

- The Commission appointed five (5) fire wardens in total, at our offices. Two (2) at the North/Head Office, two (2) at the South Office and one (1) at the Tobago Office.
- An HSE Inspection Checklist form was drafted and used for inspection.
- An Accident and Incident Reporting Procedure form was created to capture employee/ visitor injuries at our operating locations.
- An HSE Video and Quiz on COVID-19 Workplace Procedures and Guidelines were circulated to all staff members.

The HSE Committee continues to work to ensure the safety of all persons at the Commission with a constant focus on minimizing risks.



On a Positive Note

“Start each day with a positive thought and a grateful heart” – Roy T. Bennett

“Today is your opportunity to build the tomorrow you want”. – Ken Poirot

Hurricane Preparedness

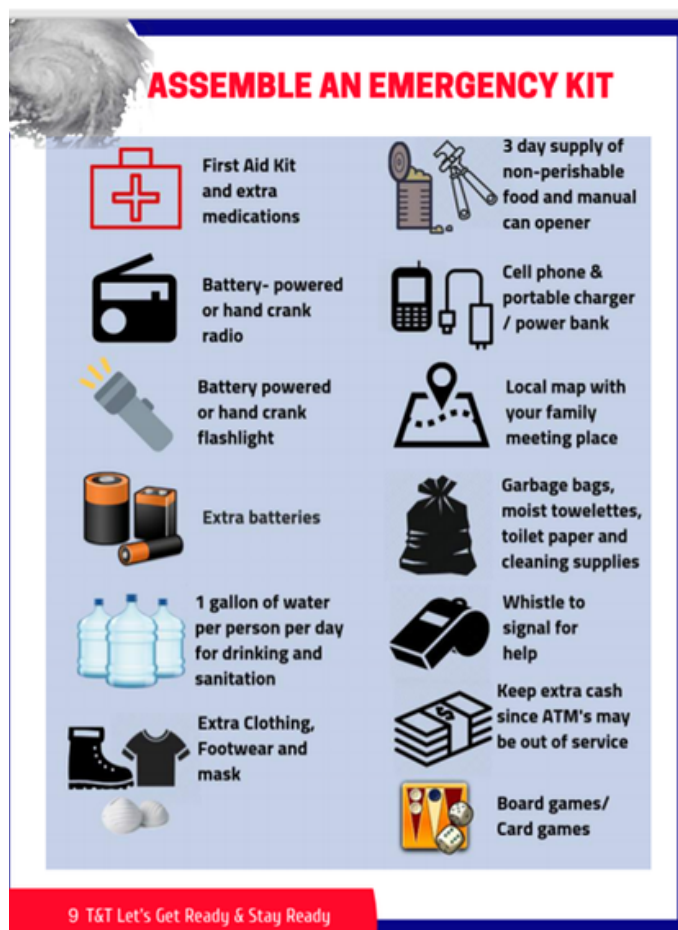


The Commission plays a critical role in assisting persons impacted by natural disasters and this places us on heightened alert during the hurricane season. We are currently in the middle of the 2020 rainy season, which runs from June to December.

During this period, we can expect an increase in rainfall and the hazards that come along with this can occur at any time, which is why we should always be prepared.

Follow these tips to keep yourselves and loved ones safe:

- Stock up on emergency kit supplies such as extra food, water and a first aid kit.
- Protect important documents such as Deeds, Birth Certificates, Marriage Licenses, Immunization records etc.
- Listen for weather updates from official sources such as the Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service.
- Create a family emergency plan



Courtesy - The Office For Disaster Preparedness (ODPM)
The Hurricane Preparedness guide is available on the website of the Office for Disaster Preparedness Management (ODPM)



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