

TESTIMONIAL
SAMIKA PRENDERGAST
Inter-Agency Network Youth Development Programme
Graduation Ceremony
March 8, 2022

Pleasant Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Samika Prendergast and I am from the Trench Town community, as one of the first apprentice under the pilot project called Inter-Agency Development Network (IAN) Programme. It's a great pleasure to be one of the first person under this project. My experience has been both good and bad.

When I first started I heard about all the opportunities and additional qualifications that I would be able to access free of cost gave me an overwhelming feeling, the opportunity to advance my knowledge and skill bank into: project management, Proposal writing, Business Model Canvass and Business Administration not to mention patience and endurance. While those areas were significantly advance, there were areas that needed improvement.

We have to wait for our little stipend for months at a time but we the small majority pushed through that challenge, even though some of our colleagues did not because they had other objectives.

Due to the of cases of covid19, the programme had to be on hold for a two months' period. When I was at home I always thought that the programme would came to an end, until I received a phone call from my supervisor Zann Locke that we should report back to work the following Monday.

On my return to the CDC I was given the task to operate the social enterprises. The Social Enterprise is the business aspect of the organizations that aid in the sustainability aspect of the trench town CDC to help to cover projects through their community outreach and development. This aspect plays a critical role in the development of the organization. Being able to lead and assist comes with great responsibilities which was rewarding, although the TTDCDC need more help with funding so they can be more sustainable.

Been at the Trench Town CDC, I look at my community a lot different because of the experience there, I also got opportunity to involve in different workshops and to meet persons from all walks of life. Additionally, I was given the opportunity to join the Trench Town Youth Council which I am the head Public Relation Officer (PRO) now, the trench town youth council is the youth arm TTCDC that represents the community where we advocate for the youths of the community you can find us on Instagram at Trench Town _Youth Council.

I must mention that I would really appreciate if others persons in my community, parishes and towns would have the opportunity to experience this exciting and rewarding experience in the next phase of the project.

Last but not least, I must also pause to thanks the sponsors, partners and most importantly the Trench Town Community Development Committee (TTCDC) for their fortitude and dedicated to our success.

I really appreciate you all. Blessings always. Thank You.