



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

April 9, 2022

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

MOE AGAIN EXPRESSES ITS APOLOGIES

The Ministry of Education once again expresses its apologies to the children who were affected by the circumstances surrounding the award of the SEA President's Medal, 2020. This was in no way intentional, and should not have occurred.

Quite apart from the merits of any proposed legal challenge by any of these students, it is important to recognise that both children will have regrettably and unjustifiably suffered as a result of the conflicting messages they have received. The subsequent treatment of this issue in the media will have no doubt exacerbated this hardship.

In a situation where two highly performing students have both excelled academically and have been both, through no fault of their own, been promised the highest accolade of the President's Medal, and have both declared their willingness to share this accolade, as an exception to any earlier practice, this option has been agreed to, as it would conduce to the benefit of both students.

To substantively defend the proposed legal actions threatened by the respective parents could potentially delay any final resolution of this matter which would not be in the best interest of the two children involved.

Going forward there will be a review of this process.

Based on the circumstances previously described, the Ministry of Education has

recommended, with agreement from the President, to jointly award the President's Medal for Primary Education (Gold) and Primary Education (Silver) to the top performing students at the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) 2020:

- Ameerah Beekhoo San Fernando TML (Gold)
- Aaron Subero Maria Regina Grade School (Gold)
- Anjanaa Dan Trinidad Renaissance School (Silver)
- Mercedes David St. Gabriel's Girls RC (Silver)

The Ministry extends its congratulations to all four students.

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