



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

## MEDIA RELEASE

April 6, 2022

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

### **Draft National School Discipline Matrix to be developed by Technical Team on School Violence Reduction**

On Monday April 4th, 2022, the Ministry of Education hosted the third multi-disciplinary meeting on school violence reduction. The meeting was chaired by Dr. the Hon. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education, and attended by the Hon. Fitzgerald Hinds, Minister of National Security (MNS), the Hon. Foster Cummings, Minister of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS), along with their technical teams, representatives of the Children's Authority, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, Ministry of Sport and Community Development, the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and the TTPS Community Police. The members of multi-disciplinary technical team are as follows:

1. Major David Benjamin, Head MILAT, Ministry Youth Development & National Service
2. Dr. Germaine Bovell-Pitt, Technical Advisor to the Hon. Minister, Ministry of Youth Development and National Service,
3. Mr. Collis Hazel, Assistant Commissioner, Specialized Support, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
4. Mr. Subash Ramkhalawan Supt. Community Relations, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
5. Bertrand Moses, Psychologist, OPM/Minister of Gender and Child Affairs
6. Ahhalia Ramdass, Psychologist, Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

7. Curtis Toussaint, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Sport and Community Development
8. Beverly Reid-Samuel, Ag. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sport and Community Development
9. Sherry-Ann Rollocks-Hackett, School Supervisor III, Tobago House of Assembly (THA)
10. Ann Natasha Second, Advisor to the Secretary, Tobago House of Assembly (THA)
11. Shelley Ann Hart, Programme Development Specialist, Ministry of Social Development & Family Services
12. Simmone Castle, Policy Development Officer, Ministry of Social Development & Family Services
13. Lisa Henry David, Chief Education Officer, Ministry of Education
14. Joy Griffith, Director of School Supervision, Ministry of Education
15. Anna Singh, Director of Curriculum, Planning and Development Division,
16. Judy Seepersad, Guidance Officer III, Student Support Services Division (SSSD), Ministry of Education
17. Leticia Roderiguez-Cupid, Coordinator - Diagnostic, Prescriptive & Special Education Services, SSSD, Ministry of Education
18. Natalie Robinson-Arnold School Social Work Specialist, SSSD, Ministry of Education
19. Dr. Peter Smith, Director (Ag.) Educational Planning Division, Ministry of Education
20. Rodelle Phillips-Simmons, Manager Corporate Communications, Ministry of Education
21. Mervyn Sambucharan, Director, Education Research and Evaluation, Ministry of Education
22. Mr. Ian Miller, Director Health Security and Safety Division, Ministry of Education

This committee, chaired by Dr. Peter Smith, Director (Ag.) Educational Planning at the Ministry of Education, is tasked with:

1. The formulation/revision of the Trinidad and Tobago National School Discipline Matrix, which outlines the list of infractions and details of their consequences as

well as the processes to be followed in administering same. (This matrix to incorporate services and resources of the various Ministries and agencies represented on the technical team)

2. The development of Positive Behaviour Reinforcement Strategies
3. The review of the criteria for the determination of high-risk schools which require support.

The multi-disciplinary technical team will present the Draft National School Discipline Matrix to the Ministerial team by April 25th, 2022. Dr. the Hon. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education, indicated her satisfaction with the level of involvement and commitment from all agencies. "The Ministry of Education simply cannot do this alone. The problem of school violence is societal, and therefore requires a whole-of-government approach to its solution." When received, the Draft Matrix will be further refined through discussion with the wider education stakeholder body, before presentation to the Cabinet.

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