



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

March 3, 2023

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

### **MOE Responds to Concerns Raised About Social Media Personality's Participation in School Event**

A video showing the participation of a social media personality at a Secondary School on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, came to the attention of the Ministry of Education on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Ministry investigated the circumstances surrounding the matter at that time and wishes to advise that no request for approval was made to include this social media personality in a school event; as such, this participation was not sanctioned by the Ministry of Education.

All School Supervisors and Principals are in possession of instructions with regard to the selection and approval process for external parties to speak at schools. These guidelines were issued to Principals in 2014, with subsequent reminders thereafter. In the case of the current video circulating with a social media personality at a secondary school, these instructions were not followed by the Principal.

The guidelines have been re-issued, today, Friday, March 3, 2023, with the mandate to Principals that only the MOE, through the office of the Chief Education Officer, can approve external speakers at school events. Failure to adhere to these instructions will result in full investigation being carried out by the MOE, with the possibility of disciplinary action.

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