



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

May 2, 2024

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

**NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE BISHOP ANSTEY ASSOCIATION AND
THE GORTT REGARDING THE OPERATIONS OF
BISHOP ANSTEY & TRINITY COLLEGE EAST CONTINUE**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Bishop Anstey Association (BAA), which manages Bishop Anstey/Trinity College East (BATCE), are currently negotiating the terms of transitioning the schools from a privately-operated model to a government assisted model, following the end of the 20-year legal agreement in 2021. During this negotiation period, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) has, and will continue to fund school operations, and 100% of student spaces, as it has done for the past 23 years.

BATCE was established in 2000 (with its 6th form in 2008) by way of a build, own, lease, transfer (BOLT) arrangement with the GORTT at an estimated cost of \$60 million per year over a 20-year period. As of 2021, the loan period expired, and the loan has been completely repaid by GORTT. The school building and land are therefore fully owned by the GORTT.

In 2019, negotiations regarding the operation of the school began, in anticipation of the end of the agreement in 2021; and the BAA was given the option to either remain a private school, with the GORTT paying for 100% of the student spaces, as currently exists, or to transition to a government-assisted model. In August 2023, the BAA chose the latter option. This decision by the BAA triggered complex negotiations with respect to staffing and school operations. These negotiations are ongoing between the MOE and BAA, and the Teaching Service Commission (TSC) has, and will be further engaged. Effective 2023, the GORTT has given a 5-year period for the transition of BATCE to the government-assisted model, with the final recommendations and

implementation plan coming out of the negotiations to be approved by the Cabinet before enactment.

The GORTT remains resolute in its commitment to ensuring a smooth transition for the BATCE and will continue to financially support the institution throughout the negotiation and transition period. All considerations for institutional stability and operational efficiency are being discussed. The negotiations are at an advanced stage, and final recommendations for the transition are expected to go to Cabinet within the next thirty (30) to sixty (60) days.

The MOE reassures all stakeholders, including parents, students, and staff, that the transition team comprising the MOE, BAA and TSC has been working sensitively and collaboratively towards the conclusion of this matter; and all decisions taken will be in the best interest of the school and its continued success.

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