



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor / Head of Department,

Mangoes, Mangoes, Mangoes

Turn Up Juniors learn Music, Dance and Drama at VRP 2023

“Mangoes, mangoes, mangoes” was the theme for the Turn Up Juniors, Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) project for the Vacation Revision Programme (VRP) at the primary school level. 3330 students from across eighty (80) Primary schools of focus across Trinidad answered the call to ‘Turn Up’, and registered for five weeks of remedial class; not expecting to also walk away as budding musicians, dancers and drama enthusiasts. Secondary School VAPA teachers in these three disciplines were engaged by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to give the students a taste of Trinidad and Tobago's heritage using the folk song, "Mangoes" as the theme.

The programme sought to help students develop self-esteem, community pride, national identity, and patriotic principles, and engender a reverence for local culture through VAPA. Within the 5week period, the results were tangible, as the students and teachers fully embraced the challenge to produce showcases that demonstrated their students' application of the technical elements of traditional folk dance, drama and music through voice and drumology. In some cases, volunteers from the communities in which the schools are located gave of their time and talent, in a show of altruism and community partnership.

Education Minister Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly expressed enthusiasm about the possibilities this pilot project presented for the new school year and shared that, *“the MoE is on the cusp of launching a National Patriotism Policy for Schools having recognized the need to inculcate and re-instill a common national identity and patriotism. The launch of the Primary School Music Programme in Academic Year 2023/24 is also eagerly anticipated.”*



The students and teachers celebrated learning, with many teachers going beyond the call to include visual art and culinary skills in bringing the theme to life, leaving a lasting impression on the students. Very much encouraged by the outcome, many of the teachers expressed their desire to see the programme continue, especially given its impact on the children's self-esteem, expression and creativity.

Further information on the Re-engaging for Success Programme can be found on moe.gov.tt.

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