



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**New Teacher Induction Graduation Ceremony 2023**

*(REMARKS)*

**Message By**

**The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian**

**Minister in the Ministry of Education**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

**9:30am**

## **SALUTATIONS:**

- **Specially invited guest**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

It is always a pleasure to address you today, given that we are here for the graduation ceremony of the New Teacher Inductees for the year 2023. For the Ministry of Education, this ceremony holds a special place in our hearts as we celebrate the 200 participants spanning ECCE, Primary and Secondary Teachers who have embarking on this 8 month journey, a journey of shaping minds, nurturing hearts, and empowering the next generation.

The theme for today's ceremony is "Empowering Hearts, Empowering Minds." This theme embodies the essence of education, for true empowerment cannot be achieved by focusing solely on the mind; it must also touch the depths of our hearts. As such, this programme was geared towards:

- Improving administrative and classroom practices which lead to improved student academic and behavioural outcomes.
- Increasing teachers' confidence in the classroom, classroom management skills and lesson presentation.

- Providing a network of support, guidance, and feedback for new teachers by using mentors for personal and professional growth.

As teachers, you possess the unique power to ignite a fire within young souls, to instill in them a love for knowledge, and to nurture their hearts to become compassionate, empathetic, and resilient individuals.

In today's rapidly evolving world, education plays a pivotal role in shaping the future. The challenges we face are complex and multifaceted, demanding innovative solutions and a deep understanding of the interconnectedness of our global community. As teachers, you are the architects of change, the torchbearers who will guide our students towards a brighter and more inclusive future.

Today, as you graduate from this esteemed program, I want to remind you of the tremendous responsibility that lies ahead. Remember, teaching is not merely a profession; it is a calling, a vocation driven by love and a desire to make a difference. In the face of challenges, never forget the immense power you hold in your hands - the power to

empower hearts and minds, to unlock the potential within each student, and to transform lives.

As you embark on this journey, stay committed to lifelong learning. Embrace what you have learnt through this programme. Continue to embrace new technologies and embrace the diverse needs of your students. Use the opportunities you have been given to grow and adapt your teaching methods to meet the evolving demands of the 21st century; this is one of the founding aims of this initiative. Remember that the greatest teachers are the ones who continue to learn themselves.

Let me express my thanks to the facilitators that shared their expertise, including internal and external personnel from the Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD); the Student Support Services Division (SSSD); the Division of School Supervision & Management (SSMD); the Teacher Education, Performance and Professional Development Division (TEPPDD); and UWI, UTT and

various teachers from within our school system. One again I give my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of you – the graduating class of 2023. You have completed a robust program that has prepared you to embark on this incredible journey as educators. Trinidad and Tobago need your passion, your dedication, and your unwavering commitment.

May your classrooms be filled with laughter, curiosity, and endless possibilities.

I thank you and may God bless you all.