



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

# MEDIA RELEASE

January 12, 2023

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

### **MOE Executive meets with TTUTA on backpay to Teachers.**

An executive team of the Ministry of Education (MoE), led by Permanent Secretary, Jacqueline Charles with the support of Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Simone Williams and Deputy Permanent Secretary Wilson Henderson Jr., met with Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association, (TTUTA) President, Martin Lum Kin and members of the executive today, Friday January 12, 2024 at the MoE's head office to discuss the ongoing processing of backpay to teachers.

The meeting sought to address concerns raised by TTUTA on outstanding payments to active members and an update on when payments will be made to retired teachers. Permanent Secretary Charles reassured the TTUTA President and Executive that considerable progress has been made with 97% or 12, 467 teachers already receiving their backpay as of January 12, 2024, inclusive of 923 teachers who received their arrears outside of the December 19, 2023 salary. Another 1,357 teachers will receive backpay with their January salaries.

PS Charles indicated that there are teachers with human resource issues and concurred that they would be advised in advance to manage their expectations. In addition, the Permanent Secretary reiterated that processing of payments to retirees will commence when payment to active teachers is completed.

TTUTA President, Martin Lum Kin and its executive acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work of the staff on this backpay project to date but requested, on behalf of their membership, a higher frequency of updates from the MoE on progress of the exercise. This commitment was given by PS Charles.

In closing, PS Charles thanked President Lum Kin and the association for their patience, applauded their efforts and gave the assurance of continued open and frank discussions.



Photo Captions:

Photo 1: TTUTA and MoE teams

Photo 2: MOE Permanent Secretary Charles chats with TTUTA President Martin Lum Kin

Photo 3: MOE and TTUTA Executive teams on backpay to teachers

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