



MEDIA RELEASE

24 March 2026

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

Update on Fire Incident at Carapichaima West Secondary School

The Ministry of Education provides the following update regarding a recent fire incident at Carapichaima West Secondary School.

Smoke was detected at approximately 1:50 p.m. in a room located on the top floor of the Form 5 building block. The school's emergency response protocols were immediately activated, and by 1:55 p.m., all staff and students were safely evacuated to the designated muster point. The Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service was contacted immediately.

At the time of the incident, members of staff and students were preparing to leave the compound as the school day was nearing its end. The school's emergency response protocols were immediately activated. No injuries or casualties were reported, and ambulance services remained on standby throughout the incident.

The Ministry advises that Form 5 students had successfully completed their Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) mock examinations prior to the incident. While the school was originally scheduled to close on Friday, March 27, 2026, for the end of the academic term, the institution has been closed with immediate effect from Monday, 23 March, 2026 as a precautionary measure.

The Ministry is actively collaborating with the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS); the Maintenance and Technical Services Division (NMTS); the Education Facilities Planning and Procurement Division; and the Health, Safety, and Security Unit to conduct comprehensive assessments and undertake all necessary remedial works. These efforts are aimed at facilitating the safe reopening of the school for the commencement of Academic Term III on 13 April 2026.

Dr the Honourable Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education emphasised, “The safety and well-being of our students remain our highest priority, and we want to assure parents and guardians that Student Support Services Division remains available to all who may need assistance during this time.”

Investigations into the cause of the incident are ongoing and are being conducted in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the TTFS.

The Ministry of Education will continue to provide updates as further information becomes available.

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Communications Unit
Ministry of Education
corporate.communication@moe.gov.tt
622-2181 Ext 1425, 1433