



MEDIA RELEASE

12 May 2026

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

Stakeholder Collaboration Central to Meeting Between MOE and Denominational Boards

On 12 May 2026, the Ministry of Education held a productive meeting with representatives of the Association of Denominational Boards of Education (ADBE) to discuss several priority matters affecting the national education system, including teacher-related issues, school upgrade initiatives and ongoing policy collaboration.

The meeting formed part of the Ministry's continuing commitment to engagement and consultation with stakeholders in advancing the development of education in Trinidad and Tobago.

During the discussions, Dr the Honourable Michael R. Dowlath, Minister of Education emphasised the importance of placing matters within their proper national context and remaining mindful of broader Government policy objectives as decisions are considered across the education sector.

Representatives of denominational boards were provided with updates on a range of collaborative initiatives currently being implemented by the Ministry in partnership with education stakeholders, including the school upgrade and infrastructural improvement programmes, Artificial Intelligence (AI) support initiatives, and the *Stakeholder Alliance for Education and Enhancement* (S.A.F.E) Initiative.

Among the matters discussed were ongoing consultations on the proposed Parental Responsibility legislation; teacher and school administration matters, including the filling of vacancies, status of furniture deliveries, and processing of grants to schools; as well as issues relating to transfers within the school system.

The Ministry also engaged stakeholders on the re-engineering of the Student Support Services Division (SSSD) in alignment with Government's Policy for Education. Plans were outlined for

the staffing of key units within the Division, with the aim of strengthening service delivery for students with special needs across the education system. Additionally, the Ministry confirmed that the substitute teacher programme is being strengthened to minimise instructional disruption in primary and secondary schools, thereby ensuring greater continuity in teaching and learning nationwide.

The Ministry of Education reaffirmed its recognition of denominational boards as longstanding and valued partners in the delivery of education and reiterated the importance of sustained dialogue and collaboration in responding to the evolving needs of the sector.

Today's engagement provided a meaningful opportunity for the exchange of perspectives and the strengthening of institutional relationships in the best interest of students, teachers, and school communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

END

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