



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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News Release

Asset Register and Computerised Maintenance Management System for All Schools

The Ministry of Education is implementing a web-based Computerised Maintenance Management System (CMMS) and developing Asset Registers for all primary and secondary schools.

It is estimated that by the start of the New Year, 195 schools utilizing the CMMS would be in an improved position to facilitate preventative maintenance through increased efficiency of management and the tracking of assets. The CMMS will provide useful information on the condition of schools including detailed data about the scope of maintenance backlogs so that priority attention can be given to high-risk problems. Additionally, the Ministry is reforming its maintenance systems using small contractors in cluster areas to effect repair and maintenance of schools.

These were some of the details on the Ministry's School Maintenance Programme shared with a 10-member delegation of the Association of Principals of Public Secondary Schools, APPSS by representatives of the Ministry at a meeting held at the Ministry's Administrative Office on Tuesday, December 18, 2007.

Hon. Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education led the Ministry's team that included Permanent Secretary Angella Jack, Deputy Permanent Secretary Marlene Juman-Redhead, Chief Education Officer, Peter O'Neil, Technical Director Ronald Thom, Director of Finance Vidya Reeraman and Human Resource Director Hamdath Ramoutar. APPSS President Angela Lloo led the delegation that included the following school

principals: Claire Telemaque, Binna Baine, Denise Hernandez. Marlene Smart, Elma Joyear-Campbell, Gary Ribeiro, Glenn Khan, Phillip Kallo and John Adrian Thompson.

The Ministry of Education has responsibility for 731 schools as follows:

- 444 Primary Schools
- 126 Secondary Schools
- 103 Government ECCE Centres
- 58 Government Assisted ECCE Centres

The APPSS team was advised that all ECCE Centers, Primary and Secondary Schools will now be clustered for maintenance by small and micro enterprise contractors. This is all part of the Ministry's thrust to develop a more efficient and responsible maintenance service for schools and ECCE Centres. It will increase school involvement in maintenance planning and provide service reports and contractor performance for the monitoring of performance of products, materials and levels of service.

The Principals were advised that as part of the Ministry's response to "essential urgent repairs that are emergency while schools are in session" will include those negatively affected by pigeon droppings; electrical disruption; lack of water supply and sewer leakages. The APPSS team was provided detailed information on the Ministry's Information and Computer Technology programme; the status on school Deshifting and Conversion. The Minister challenged the Principals to discuss among themselves and submit proposals for staffing issues at schools; their views on working hours, the process for consultation on school repair/upgrade and a dress code for teachers.