



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Communications Unit

Alexandra Street, St Clair

Tel: 622-1088 Fax: 628-2088

www.moe.gov.tt

News Release:

Palo Seco Government Primary School

The Ministry of Education wishes to advise that in August 2007 Cabinet agreed to the award of a contract amounting to over \$2.4 million to the Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited, PSAEL, for the refurbishment of buildings to accommodate the Palo Seco Government Primary School.

It was agreed that arrangements be entered into with PSAEL for a lease arrangement for the use of an administration building (currently being used by the PSAEL administrative staff) and two adjacent warehouse structures that will be refurbished to accommodate the operations of the school.

Students of the Palo Seco Government Primary School are temporarily housed in facilities of Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited at Beach Camp, Palo Seco. By letters dated May 02 and June 12, 2007 Petrotrin and PSAEL advised the Ministry of Education that a “condition and defects survey” conducted in March 2007 revealed that that structure was no longer safe and presented risks to its occupants.

In a move to urgently seek alternative accommodation to house the schools 269 students the Ministry of Education held discussions with representatives of both PETROTRIN and PSAEL and was presented with facilities at PSAEL to be used for further temporary accommodation of the school.

In discussions with Ministry representatives on September 3, a six-member delegation of parents and community activists indicated they held discussions with PETROTRIN and presented alternative arrangements. It was agreed that a team representing the Ministry’s Education Facilities Management Division visit the area today (September 4) and report and on the alternative accommodation suggested.

Representatives of the Ministry of Education will thereafter schedule a meeting of the Principal and teachers of the school as well as representatives of the Parent-Teacher Association and community representatives to discuss arrangements for the continued operation of the school.

Meanwhile, the Ministry wishes to advise that architectural design for the new Palo Seco Government Primary School is completed and tender documents are being prepared. The new school will be sited on the site of the original location of the Palo Seco Government Primary School and on adjacent lands owned by Petrotrin.

4th September 2007.