



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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News Release:

# **Denominational Boards Pledge Full Support To New Minister of Education**

## **Meetings held this week with TTUTA, tt-UNESCO, the Education Facilities Company Limited and the Primary School Principals Association**

Hon. Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education, as part of her continuing outreach to stakeholders in education, held a meeting with representatives of the Association of Denominational Boards of Education at the Ministry's St. Clair offices on Monday, December 11. Permanent Secretary Angella Jack; Deputy Permanent Secretary, Marlene Juman-Redhed; Chief Education Officer, Peter O'Neil and a team from the Ministry's Education Facilities Management Division accompanied the Minister.

The Association of Denominational Boards included representatives of the following: Presbyterian Primary School Board of Management; Anglican Education Board; Seventh Day Adventist, SDMS; KPA; ASJA; Catholic Education Board of Management; Holy Ghost Fathers; and the Spiritual Shouter Baptist Council of Elders.

The Minister held similar orientation and introductory sessions this week with the Chairman and executive team of the Education Facilities Company Limited; the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association; the Trinidad and Tobago National Commission for UNESCO and the National Primary Schools Principal Association.

The Minister said the Denominational Boards, TTUTA, TTUNESCO and the National Primary Schools' Principal Association remain important partners in education

and while she will maintain an 'open door' policy, expressed the desire for continued cooperation.

Sat Maharaj, Public Relations Officer of the Association of Denominational Boards of Education assured the new Minister of the full support of the Association. The Association includes fourteen religious organizations that provide public education in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Concordat.

The Ministry's Senior Legal Officer, Nirmala Majoraj outlined the status of the new contract developed by the Ministry to govern the financial relationship with the Denominational Boards. Consultant Mr. Kenrick Burgess detailed procedures that will apply under new arrangements for school construction, maintenance and repair.

During the meeting it was agreed that the Association will present a number of proposals impacting the operations of schools all aimed at improving relations with the Ministry of Education.

**27 December 2007**

