



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Communications Unit

Alexandra Street St Clair, Port of Spain

Tel: 1-868-622-1088 Fax: 1-868-628-2088

<http://www.moe.gov.tt>

NEWS RELEASE

DENOMINATIONAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION ACCEPT GOVERNMENT'S 100% FUNDING FOR SCHOOL REPAIRS

Denominational Boards of Education have accepted Government's 100 percent funding of the 2007 School Repair and Refurbishment programme.

Senator Hazel Manning, at a meeting on Tuesday (July 24) with a team of officials from the Ministry of Education and representatives of the Association of Denominational Boards of Education said the Ministry has begun work on its 2007 School Repair and Refurbishment Programme. She welcomed the agreement of the Association for government's waiver of the standard 1/3 – 2/3 funding arrangements in favour of 100-percent funding by the State for the School Repair and Refurbishment Programme on government assisted schools.

The Ministry of Education proposes, with the support of the Association of Denominational Schools, to effect works on a record 281 primary and secondary schools at an estimated cost of \$123 million.

The Ministry's repair and refurbishment initiative to meet the requirements of an expanded and modernized curriculum as well as health and safety issues began in the fiscal year 2002-2003. Parliament's recent approval of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSH, intensified the Ministry's School Repair Programme so much so that over 1,000 repair projects have been completed during the current five-year period.

In a move to ensure transparency and accountability under these full-funding arrangements, Senator Manning announced that the following agencies will provide Project Management Services:

- The Educational Facilities Company Limited, EFCL
- The National Maintenance Training and Security Company, MTS
- The National Insurance Property Development Company, NIPDEC.

The three State Agencies will award contracts for school repairs in accordance with their tender procedures. Contractors who have worked with the Denominational Boards of Education are invited to register and tender for these upgrading projects.

The Association representatives agreed to work with the Ministry of Education and its Project Management Agencies to ensure that school repairs are completed in advance of the reopening of schools. Both teams will meet next week at the Ministry with representatives of the Project Management Agencies.

Education Is Everyone's Business

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