



## **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

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### **News Release:**

## **SCHOOLS REPAIR PROGRAMME 2007** **281 SCHOOLS TO BE UPGRADED** **AT A COST OF \$123 MILLION**

Students and teachers at 281 schools will find their schools in an improved condition at the start of the academic year in September 2007 as a result of a School Repair and Refurbishment Programme recently approved by the Cabinet at an estimated cost of \$123 million.

The Ministry of Education's most recent assessment of the nation's 748 primary and secondary schools revealed that over 50 percent of these schools are over 50 years of age and are in need of major upgrade and maintenance.

The nation-wide School Repair and Refurbishment Programme seeks to combat the deterioration of primary and secondary schools and ensure that they are proactively maintained. It is also designed to include the upgrading of facilities to meet the requirements of an expanded and modernized curriculum as well as to address health and safety issues.

The Ministry's aggressive repair and refurbishment initiative began in the fiscal year 2002-2003. Parliament's approval of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH) in 2006 intensified the Ministry's School Repair Programme so much so that over 1,000 repair projects have been carried out during the current five-year period. Additionally, the Ministry is replacing traditional furniture in schools with new designs that facilitate and

encourage learning. A large number of schools, both Primary and Secondary, are recipients of the new design furniture.

The scope of school repairs and the provision of furniture and equipment during 2002-2006 are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Schools Repaired</u>	<u>\$ approved by Cabinet</u>	<u>Schools supplied with Furniture &amp; Equipment</u>	<u>Cost</u>
2002-2003	161	\$37,313,000	31	\$1.1 M
2003-2004	150	\$45,423,587	87	\$3.5 M
2004-2005	147	\$57,149,474	42	\$3.7 M
2005-2006	202	\$118,416,039	68	\$2.0 M
2006-2007	281	\$123,122,500	195	\$3.9 M
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>941</u></b>	<b><u>\$381,424,600</u></b>	<b><u>423</u></b>	<b><u>\$14.2 M</u></b>

The 2006-2007 programme for the 281 schools will see improvements at:

Primary Schools:

- 135 Government Assisted Primary Schools
- 92 Government Primary Schools

Secondary Schools:

- 34 Government Assisted Secondary Schools
- 20 Government Secondary Schools.

The Ministry will focus its maintenance efforts on addressing the foremost challenges affecting schools in the following critical areas:

1. Security
2. Upgrade of sanitation (toilets, sewerage disposal, plumbing and water storage systems)
3. Repairs to the roof
4. Upgrade of electrical systems
5. Structural improvements including the replacement of defective floors and walls
6. Environmental concerns (erosion, sea blast, termite infestation)
7. Upgrading of recreational grounds

## 8. The provision of furniture and equipment

The addition of new subjects to the curricula that are examinable by the Caribbean Examinations Council have impacted on school upgrading which has necessitated the provision of improved facilities for Visual and Performing Arts, Technology Education and Physical Education.

Some of the specific areas that are being addressed include the upgrading of:

- Technology Education facilities: Workshops laboratories and electrical systems to facilitate the expanding use of computers, Internet and air-condition systems in our schools.
- Physical Education facilities: The upgrade of playfields, pavilion, gymnasium, hard courts and auditoriums
- Visual and Performing Arts facilities: The inclusion of auditoriums and Music Rooms for Theatre Arts, Dance and Music.

Schools are included in the repair and upgrade programme based on the Ministry's recently established Asset Register and at the request of Principals, as well as on the findings of Public Health Inspectors or due to emergencies.

The Ministry of Education, as part of its risk assessment analysis, recently implemented an Asset Register as part of its Computerised Maintenance Management System to improve the capacity to track and monitor the physical condition of schools and to provide responses in real time to requests for repairs.

The Ministry of Education, with Cabinet's approval and in accordance with the provisions of Section 20A (1) ( c) of the Central Tenders Board Ordinance of 1961 has contracted three agencies to undertake the School Repair Programme 2007.

These agencies have been given the mandate to procure consultants and contractors and to project-manage in accordance with the scope of works identified by the Ministry of Education, the School Boards and the School Principals. The agencies include:

- Education Facilities Company Limited, EFCL;
- National Maintenance Training and Security Company, MTS;
- National Insurance Property Development Company, NIPDEC

In order to ensure that proper procedures are in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the expenditure of Government funds, contracts will be awarded in accordance with approved tendering procedures. Contractors who have worked with the Denominational Boards of Education will be invited to tender for these projects, provided they are registered with the EFCL, MTS and NIPDEC.

Contracts for work on all schools will be drawn up between the State Agencies and the respective contractors. Payment for work done on the schools will be made by the State Agencies to the contractors and under these arrangements, the Ministry of Education will fund 100-percent of the repair costs.

The agencies and the number of schools assigned are as follows:

**Education Facilities Company Limited, EFCL**

Primary Schools

- Schools to be Repaired 17
- Computerisation Upgrade 10

Secondary Schools

- Schools to be Repaired 2

**1. National Maintenance Training and Security Company, MTS**

Primary Schools

- a. Schools to be Repaired 91
- b. Computerisation Upgrade -117
- c. Pre-engineered Buildings 7

Secondary Schools

- Schools to be Repaired 22
- Pre-engineered buildings 17
- General Science Lab. Upgrade 4

### **3, National Insurance Property Development Company, NIPDEC**

#### Primary Schools

- Schools to be repaired 119
- Computerisation upgrade 59

#### Secondary Schools

- Schools to be repaired 30
- General Science Lab. Upgrade 7

Construction works will continue at schools beyond September. This should not interfere with the functioning of the school or compromise the safety of occupants.

The Education Facilities Management and School Supervision Divisions of the Ministry of Education is requesting the cooperation of all School Boards and School Principals in order to ensure the success of this year's School Repair Programme.

## **EDUCATION IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS**



27<sup>th</sup> July 2007.