



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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NEWS RELEASE

MINISTER MEETS PROTESTERS

The Minister of Education and Ministry Officials met with a representative group of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) teaching staff who protested outside the Ministry's Alexandra Street Offices earlier today.

The Minister of Education met with the protesting group on the pavements outside the Ministry and invited them in for discussions. In a meeting which lasted for about two hours, the group shared their concerns about their remuneration and status in the ECCE sector.

Since January 2007, the Ministry has moved to reorganize and formalize the ECCE sector and introduced a new curriculum aimed at strengthening the base of the education system. New standards for the operation of early childhood centres nationally, including a policy for the upgrade of teaching skills have been introduced. The new arrangement is supported by an improved salary structure commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Following what was a cordial meeting, Minister Le Gendre said, "Today's meeting will be the first of a series. We have committed to continue discussions and to pay special attention to the issues raised. The group's concerns are understandable in the current transition period. We assured those present that years of experience and training are being considered in the roll over to the new system. The Ministry is committed to working with early childhood education training agencies to enhance capacity in existing centres".

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