

# Education



# WORK



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## ASJA signs MOU with MOE



**As the Ministry of Education continues its move forward to create a seamless educational system throughout Trinidad, we have achieved yet another milestone.**

The educational board of the Anjuman Sunnat-UI-Jamaat Association (ASJA) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education in March, for the construction and operation of early childhood care and education centres (ECCE).

This agreement ensures, among others, that the Ministry is responsible for the construction of 80% of the construction work on the centres, recruitment and payment of teachers and other supporting staff, while the ASJA is to

provide land, maintain the premises and collaborate with the Ministry in the daily operations and management of the centres in accordance with to the policies and standards of the Ministry.

This signing marks the commitment of the Ministry and ASJA to provide a high standard educational system where both parties have in the past cooperated to promote a longstanding partnership in providing public education in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Education Act, the relevant Civil Service and Public Service Regulations and the Concordat.



Above from left: Abraham Ferguson, Gia Gaspard-Taylor and Principal, Marcia Massiah.

### **El Dorado East Secondary School donates \$10,000 towards the relief effort for Haiti.**

Financial assistance to earthquake ravaged Haiti continues to pour in from citizens of Trinidad and Tobago including the students and staff of the El Dorado East Secondary School. Recently, Abraham Ferguson, student, presented a cheque for \$10,000 to Gia Gaspard-Taylor who received it on behalf of the International Education and Research Network (IERN), an affiliate of UNESCO.

## Goodbye and welcome

Colleagues at the Ministry of Education bid both farewell and welcome at a ceremony dedicated to three senior officers, two of whom have taken up positions in other Ministries.

Held in Conference Room Two at the Loinsworth Building, on 29th March, the ceremony was held in honour of Permanent Secretary, Angella Jack who spent eight years of dedicated service with the Ministry and is now the new Permanent Secretary of the Ministry Community Development and Gender Affairs, and Deputy Permanent Secretary, Marlene Juman, who spent five years in the Ministry and is now the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Finance.

Teacher and calypsonian, Black Sage entertained as senior executives and heads of divisions openly paid tribute and recalled memorable moments. One director was overheard saying, "If it was one thing I learnt from Mrs. Jack was how to do a cabinet note properly" others laughed in agreement, while another described her as a perfectionist, commenting as well on the numerous cabinet notes returned with red writing.

Members of staff also took the opportunity to heartily welcome Ministry of Education's new Permanent Secretary, Maurice Suite and expressed their eagerness to work with him.

We all join in wishing PS Jack and DPS Juman the very best as they carry out their duties at their new ministries.





## Principals talk solutions

Principals of the public secondary schools held their termly meeting in March where they were addressed by the Honorable Esther Le Gendre, who spoke to them about the revolution in education as several initiatives have been and will be started by the Ministry of Education. The continued construction of early childhood care and education (ECCE) centres on available state lands will ensure that the ideology behind seamless education, (which is a smooth transition from early childhood straight through to tertiary education) is not compromised. Also, irregularity and punctuality reports will soon be made available on the Ministry's website so that the public can monitor the attendance of teachers in the schools at which their children

are students.

Another topic on the agenda was the violence and indiscipline in schools and the plans that are afoot to have these issues addressed. One such mechanism is to have a book set up in each school recording the names of those who are in violent, troubled or questionable alliances. As a result, intervention and full sensitisation programmes are to be instituted to help these children. They will be offered a range of extracurricular activities to keep both their minds and bodies engaged. Discussion also included the conversion of a number of co-educational junior and senior secondary schools into single gender ones.

## New Faces at Communications Division

The Communications Division of the Ministry of Education has been welcoming its newest members of staff from the first working day of 2010. Now on board are Brand Coordinator- Esuyemi Ogunbanke, who will be overseeing the development of a Brand Identity Framework for the Ministry of Education as it seeks to fulfill its mandate of contributing to "developing innovative people", as defined as one of the pillars of Government's draft Strategic Plan - Vision 2020. Also adding to the staff complement are Communications Assistants - Camille Marshall and Kerry-Anne Roberts; Clerk II (Ag.) Artee Seepersad; Clerk/Typist - Dianna Bacquain; Graduate

On-the Job-Trainee (OJT)- Josanne Leid; and OJTs -Terasha Job and Wesleeanne Gittens.

The Division continues to serve to support all programmes in the Ministry of Education and communicates with both internal and external publics in relation to these programmes. All advertisements and publications for internal use are produced in-house by our Production Team. As decentralisation and a new Head Office location are an integral part of the future of the Ministry, the work of the Communications Division is sure to increase and it will be part of our mandate to rise to meet the demands of development.



Esuyemi Ogunbanke  
Brand Coordinator



Dianna Bacquain  
Clerk/Typist



Camille Marshall  
Communications Assistant



Josanne Leid  
Graduate On-the Job-Trainee



Kerry-Anne Roberts  
Communications Assistant



Terasha Job  
On-the Job-Trainee



Artee Seepersad  
Clerk II (Ag.)

## School transport service

# Seatbelts now a must



The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) has implemented a programme to install seatbelts in all maxi taxis registered to transport students to and from school on a daily basis.

As of 15th January 2010 all maxi taxi owners in the programme were mandated to install seatbelts to ensure the continued safety of all students transported using the Maxi Taxi School Transport Service. PTSC buses used to transport children are also fitted with seatbelts. The move was a directive from the Hon Esther Le Gendre, Minister of Education, in response to a 2009 accident involving students traveling in a maxi taxi where several students were severely injured.

Sensitisation with school principals and officials monitoring the school transport services is ongoing, to ensure that students adhere to the new policy relating to the use of seat belts.

The Ministry of Education's social support programme provides, along with free meals and textbooks, a free bus transport service on selected urban and rural routes. The annual cost of the service is TT \$50 million.

