



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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Train the Trainer

The Restructuring and Decentralisation Action Unit concluded its month long training and participatory workshop entitled, “Train the Trainer” at the St. Borromeo, Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, 10 June, 2010. The impetus behind this initiative was to train senior officials who belong to crucial departments in the Ministry of Education (MOE) to impart their knowledge about the way in which decentralisation is to be implemented at the district level to their staff members.

Decentralisation refers to the transfer of functions from the centre (head office) to regional or branch offices. This process will enable better management of schools, improved organisational performance and quality educational services. According to Ernst Williams, principal consultant and facilitator of the workshop, decentralisation has benefits for all involved in the education process. “Firstly, parents will have greater resources at their disposal and will see more improvement in the academic performance of their child as a result of reduced dropout rates and repetition rates. Secondly, teachers will be able to boast of a more opening and welcoming school environment as decisions for each school will be suited to its specific needs. Thirdly, at the administrative level, there will be improved effectiveness and success of schools and improved supervision and evaluation.”



Above: Participants of the workshop



Left: Ernst Williams, Consultant and Facilitator

Participants vocalised what they expected the decentralised process to achieve. Some of the pertinent responses included: a focus on better student outcomes and school improvement, the creation of an ideal Caribbean citizen (who would have been the direct result of successful decentralisation), improved integrated educational services (externally and internally), more cohesion among the various units in the MOE, a greater integration of seamless education into the entire process, greater commitment to the tasks ahead and a strict sense of accountability. The workshop was interactive as trainers were enthused and prepared to learn, ready to convey to their knowledge to fellow co-workers to ensure that the idea of decentralisation would soon be manifested into reality. – *CM*