

## **DIVISION OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY**

8<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Reopening of Tobago Schools: Term One 2025/2026

Today marked the reopening of schools across the nation for the start of the 2025/2026 academic year. In Tobago, of the 58 institutions that fall within the responsibility of the Division of Education, Research and Technology (DERTech): 12 ECCE Centres, 34 Primary Schools, 2 Special Schools, and the Roxborough Trade Centre - all resumed classes as scheduled, with the exception of Mason Hall Government Primary School.

At Mason Hall Government Primary School, retiling of the male washrooms was recently included as emergency works, owing to a persistent stench that had been emanating from the facility. The project was originally expected to be completed before school reopened, encountered additional complications, extending the deadline. Male students are expected to have full access to the washroom facilities from tomorrow, (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025). Parents and guardians are therefore assured that classes at Mason Hall Government Primary School will resume in full tomorrow.

DERTech categorically rejects the false claim that male and female students were instructed to share the same washroom facilities during this period of repair. At no time was such a directive issued by the Division. Any suggestion to the contrary is misleading and without basis in fact. DERTech emphasises that at no point was any directive issued for male and female students to share the same washroom facilities during this period of repair. Any reports suggesting otherwise are false.

The public is reminded that all official updates regarding schools are issued directly by DERTech. These communications are clearly identified by the Tobago House of Assembly logo. For further information or clarification, members of the public are encouraged to contact the Communications Unit of DERTech.

As this new academic year begins, DERTech extends best wishes to all principals, teachers, staff, and students across Tobago. May this term be filled with inspiration, growth, and encouragement to dream beyond boundaries, reimagine what is possible, and pursue excellence in every endeavour.

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