



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

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **DERTech and TTPS Discuss Rollout of School Oriented Policing Unit**

**Scarborough, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025:** The Division of Education, Research and Technology (DERTech), in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), has finalized arrangements to assign police officers to two (2) secondary schools in Tobago. This initiative aligns with the Central Government's establishment of a School Oriented Policing Unit, which seeks to strengthen safety and security at selected at-risk schools nationwide.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Junior Benjamin, accompanied by Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) for Tobago, Oswin Subero, and members of the TTPS, met with Secretary of Education, Research and Technology, Assemblyman Zorisha Hackett, Administrator Ginelle Williams, senior officials of DERTech, and principals of the two (2) selected schools to agree on the terms and conditions for operations on their compounds.

**Beginning Monday, 22nd September, 2025, Signal Hill Secondary School and Mason Hall Secondary School will experience the daily presence of police officers.** Ahead of this implementation, sensitization sessions will be conducted with teachers, parents, and students during the course of the week.

The police presence is intended to provide additional support to principals in addressing student indiscipline through non-lethal and constructive interventions. This arrangement will be closely monitored by both DERTech and the TTPS to ensure its effectiveness.

In addition, discussions also considered the extension of police support to at least nine (9) additional primary and secondary schools. Under this arrangement, the identified schools would benefit from closer monitoring and more frequent visits by police officers, with the intention of fostering a safe and supportive learning environment.

DERTech reaffirms its commitment to addressing issues of indiscipline in schools through a range of strategies outlined in its policies, while ensuring the safety and well-being of all staff and students.

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