



Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

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Republic of Trinidad & Tobago**

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Media Release

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Signing of MoU For ICT Enabled Devices and Internet Connectivity For Students In Trinidad And Tobago

Dr. the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, Minister of Education and Mr. Gilbert Peterson S.C., Chairman of the Board of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), will on Friday October 23, 2020 at 10.30AM, sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the supply of 10,000 ICT-enabled devices and sim cards with data plans, to students of public schools.

The signing takes place at the office of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, #5 Eighth Avenue Extension, off Twelfth Street Barataria.

In attendance will be Ms Lenore Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Mrs Reddock-Downes, TATT's Chief Executive Officer.

The total cost of the devices, including Internet access is TTD \$15,144,975. The cost of the equipment and Internet access will be covered by TATT through its Universal Service Fund (USF).

Digicel (Trinidad & Tobago) Limited and Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited are responsible for procuring the devices and providing Internet services.

The USF is prescribed in the Telecommunications Act Chap 47:31 and is funded from a combination of TATT revenues and through contributions from providers of public telecommunications services in Trinidad and Tobago who in turn provide the services.

Directors: Mr. Gilbert Peterson, S.C. (Chairman), Dr. Kim Mallalieu (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Nikolaiski Ali, Dr. Beverly Beckles, Mr. Oliver Elcock, Mr. Terrence Henry, Professor St. Clair King, Mr. Michael Lucien, Mrs. Kalana Prince-Wilson, Mr. Stephen Tang Nian.

The responsibility of the USF is to facilitate connectivity to unserved and underserved communities in Trinidad and Tobago as well as provide connectivity and affordable access to schools, libraries, public health institutions, and other public institutions as well as support for persons with disabilities.

The objectives of this initiative with the Ministry of Education are to:

- a. facilitate access and Internet connectivity to e-learning platforms and resources to underserved students through the provision of ICT-enabled devices as well as access to the Internet via a mobile network;
- b. facilitate and foster online participation on e-learning platforms and resources by underserved students;
- c. reduce the digital divide by promoting the digital inclusion of underserved students without access to Internet-enabled ICT devices and Internet connectivity; and
- d. mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, so that the digital divide is not exacerbated, by promoting increased access to ICT devices and Internet connectivity.

All media are invited for a photo opportunity.

Corporate Communications Department
Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago