



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

TTPS Continues Intervention at Rose Hill RC School, Urges Pupils to ‘Write Your Story, Move from Fear to Freedom’

Pupils of the Rose Hill Roman Catholic School (RHRCs) are being empowered to enhance their resilience in confronting and addressing social issues that may arise in their school and home environments.

In the third instalment of its crime prevention series, **‘Who’s Writing Your Story – Fear to Freedom,’** launched today at the school, officials at the Victim and Witness Support Unit (VWSU) recommitted to equipping the pupils with social skills.

The first two instalments were held in March 2020 and March 2021 at various secondary schools targeting adolescent males.

These skills are geared toward the strategic, holistic, and cohesive development of the children, specifically tailored to meet the demands of the school population. It is designed to empower their sense of self-worth and boosts their mental and social outlook.

The launch included Standard Four and Five pupils, ages nine to 14, of whom will undergo a 10-month-long programme encompassing four elements.

Head – Social Support, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), Aisha Corbie, revealed that the four modules include the developmental stage which is interactive empowerment, mentorship, partnership and volunteerism, and parental empowerment.

Corbie outlined the objectives saying that the programme will provide positive alternatives to criminal activities, education on push and pull factors, encourage healthy coping mechanisms to increase awareness of emotional intelligence and foster a greater degree of financial planning.

Guest Speaker, Head of the Port-of-Spain Division, Senior Superintendent, Roger Alexander, told the students that “your environment does not make you who you are.”

Snr Supt Alexander encouraged, “You have to put in the work to get where you want to be [in life].”

The Divisional Commander said, upon the unfortunate shooting incident near the school compound last November, “The TTPS and partners rose to the occasion and adopted the children [as their own].”

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He said that while Inter-Agency Task Force personnel continues to play an active role in the school's operations, the pupils also have to "remember where you came from in order to know where you want and need to go."

He encouraged, "Keep pushing hard Principal. If we neglect them [the students], we would have an unfinished product."

Meanwhile, Head of the Special Victims Department, Superintendent Claire Guy Alleyne, who brought remarks on behalf of the Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Erla Christopher, motivated the pupils, asking them to see themselves as being "great, successful, worthy," and that they "do matter."

Supt Guy-Alleyne challenged the students to say these things about themselves every morning, stressing that, "You are the author of your life."

She continued, "Don't think that as a child you don't have the opportunity to write your story. You have choices in life. People are looking on. What we are doing, someone else is looking, mirroring what we are doing. So we have to be the best examples that we can be."

While applauding the fathers present, she shared that, "I have a dream that Trinidad and Tobago will be and shall be a place for paradise where there will be no crime. We can create an atmosphere where each one of us can live in peace and harmony. Choose life and positivity and stay away from crime. We each have a contribution to make to make Trinidad and Tobago safe."

Member of Parliament (MP) for Port-of-Spain South, Keith Scotland, said that, "Out of evil cometh good."

MP Scotland urged, "This is where your story begins. Without this, you have no story. Without your education people will look down on us. But, when you are educated, can anyone take away what's in your head and heart?"

He quipped, "With the support of the TTPS, this is one of the safest schools in the country. I see a great future for you."

Also present to encourage the pupils in the programme were Principal, RHRCS, Dr Charlene Quamina, Sterling Jacobs of the Catholic Education Board, Jaron Nurse, Sekon Sta, WPC Nakasa Thatcher-Roberts of the TTPS' Band and several VWSU Officers.

SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPH

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