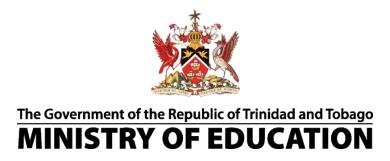**MEDIA RELEASE**

August, 25th 2022

Dear Editor / Head of Department

Contact: NIHERST Marketing and
Communications Department
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The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

NIHERST

MoE / NIHERST help build the nation's resilience in education transformation

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Education's Adopt-a-School programme received thirty (30) chrome books sponsored by NIHERST.

The Adopt–A–School programme was built on the premise of creating a long-term meaningful partnership that would provide schools with vital resources and networks to facilitate the establishment of long-term philanthropic relationships.

At the most recent Adopt–a–School presentation ceremony held on August 25th, 2022, St. David's. R.C. Primary School, a member of the NIHERST Teach ME Project (Increasing **Teach**ers Confidence for **M**y **E**ducation) was the beneficiary.

The Teach ME project aims to measurably improve levels of creativity in the delivery and learning of STEM subjects in Trinidad and Tobago. This is achieved by supplementing existing methods and techniques used in teaching at primary and secondary schools through hands-on/minds-on methods and techniques to adequately prepare our young people for the exciting world of Science, Technology, and Innovation.

Speaking at the Adopt–a–School presentation ceremony, NIHERST Governor, Ms. Sharon Baboolal, underscored the need for digital technology adoption and expressed that 'students are

no longer required to merely equip themselves with the physical pages of their textbooks, but e-learning competencies and associated technologies are now ever more essential.'

Present at the ceremony, Honourable Minister, Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly in her address asked the audience, "Why are we still distributing laptops. Have schools not fully reopened?".

In her reflection of the effects brought on by the pandemic and echoing the sentiments expressed by the NIHERST Governor, she answered by stating that, "it is imperative that we build an education system that is resilient enough to withstand a shock that could not have been contemplated pre-2020, but we know is possible in 2022 and beyond".

The Honourable Minister continued her address by impressing on the audience, 'the only way we know that is possible is to ensure that our students can be in school whether they are physically there or virtually present, so the need for us to move our education system online is paramount.'

Also in attendance was Ms. Ginnall Thomas, Principal (Ag.) of St. David's R.C Primary School, who expressed her deepest gratitude to both the Ministry of Education and NIHERST for the initiative.

The ceremony was also attended by Mrs. Marleen Lord-Lewis (NIHERST President), Ms. Ryane Rollock, (V.P, Science and Technology (Ag.), Mrs. Giselle Dinzey (Ast. Registrar), Mrs. Lorett Hope-McDonald (Manager, Human Resources and Corporate Services), Ms. Candice Hector (Manager, Marketing and Communications) and Ms. Josanne Warner (Project Officer).

About NIHERST
NIHERST is a statutory body established in 1984 to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago consistent with national development goals. The Institute is an agency under the Ministry of Education. Its current work focuses on the development of a more diversified, knowledge-driven economy, based on the ingenuity of our people and their ability to create, adapt and use science and technology for wealth generation and national development. Many of its programmes aim to strengthen the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial capabilities of the general population. NIHERST is also engaged in research, such as in foresight and innovation, to support economic diversification; promoting innovation and the commercialisation of technology in priority sectors; and building global partnerships.

Left to Right: Ms. Ginnalll Thomas - Principal (Ag.), Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly - Minister of Education, Ms. Sharon Baboolal – NIHERST, Board of Governor, Mrs. Marleen Lord – Lewis - NIHERST, President

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