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## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO UNIFIED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Our Ref. MR.CIR/SBM  
Please Quote in your reply

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### MEDIA RELEASE

#### Circular on "Training for Leadership, Governance and Integrated Management Dimension of the School Based Management System"

The Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association advises that the subject circular is improperly issued and illegally impacts on the legitimate vacation time of teachers. The circular has been issued without the requisite protocols of a reference number, a circular memorandum number or the authority of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education.


Further, the circular seeks to direct certain teachers to attend sessions during the Christmas vacation and notes that "**ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**". It is reprehensible in the extreme that the Chief Education Officer should engage in such poor industrial relation practices by unilaterally attempting to alter the terms and conditions of teachers.

This goes directly against the decision of the Special Tribunal of the Industrial Court in S.T.NO. 10 of 1985 delivered on July 9, 1986 which stated "**The period of school vacation is therefore the period of vacation leave for teachers.**" It further states "**The circulars clearly sought to unilaterally vary the terms and conditions of employment of teachers and are therefore invalid.**"

In the circumstances, TTUTA advises teachers who are affected by the circular that it is null and void and of no effect and any effort to compel teachers to attend school during the school vacation will attract legal action to protect the rights of teachers. TTUTA will leave no stone unturned in defence of its members.

TTUTA calls on the Ministry of Education to immediately withdraw this "Circular" and engage TTUTA in meaningful dialogue aimed at resolving this unnecessary impasse.

Respectfully

  
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**LYNSLY A. DOODHAI**  
**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**