

**Welcome Address by Mr. Lester Applewhite, Director,  
Education Facilities Company Limited,  
at the formal handover and rededication of the  
Charlieville Presbyterian Primary School  
on Monday January 24<sup>th</sup> 2010**

A wise man once said – *Free the child's potential, and you will transform him into the world.* The Education Facilities Company Limited takes pleasure in constructing and equipping facilities that that will assist educators to do just that – free children's potential – so that they can be developed into persons who are well equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow's world.

Like the Ministry of Education, we at EFCL recognize that the intellectual splendor of children, if well garnered, is like the sun which appears at dawn or a flower just beginning to bloom. Charlieville Presbyterian Primary School, like all the schools that we construct is equipped to be effective in opening up the child to himself and to life.

Ladies and gentlemen, Education Facilities Company Limited or EFCL as we are commonly known in the education community is pleased to be part of the Ministry's initiatives with regard to the renewal of the education system.

The Education Facilities Company Limited was incorporated on March 2005 and commenced operations in August 2005 as a limited liability special purpose company of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago with the specific responsibility to manage projects assigned by the Ministry of Education including the design, construction, equipping and

outfitting of all Government and Government assisted Early Childhood Care and Education Centres, Primary and Secondary Schools and Education District Offices in Trinidad.

In January 2008, responsibility for the repair and maintenance of the all such facilities in Trinidad was added to Education Facilities Company Limited's portfolio. Today, EFCL is responsible for the maintenance and outfitting of over 800 schools.

In its five years of operations, the EFCL has delivered five primary schools with ongoing construction at another; one state of the art Secondary School Technology Block at the Chaguanas North Secondary School with construction underway at another twelve. We have also delivered a total of 30 Early Childhood Care and Education Centers that were constructed and equipped on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

We have found however, that traditional construction can be lengthy and that some schools need immediate responses to facility problems. In such instances ladies and gentlemen, we turn to prefabricated structures like you see here today.

This is the sixth such school that we have constructed utilizing this methodology and we are about to commence construction on a seventh – the Balmain Presbyterian Primary school over the next few days.

When space is at a premium and both time and budget is constrained, modular school buildings offer an excellent alternative for expansion. Conventional construction can cost millions and take a great deal of time to build but with prefabricated school buildings you are reducing the cost and speeding up the completion date without extra costs.

You may be surprised to learn what modular buildings can do.

We have found that pre-fabricated buildings are both cost-effective and time effective and serve as a reliable answer for adding much required classrooms or replacement of schools since it can be setup on site quickly and easily during the school holidays. Students and staff therefore experience the benefit of the new facilities without the ongoing construction process associated with traditional construction.

We are here today, however, to hand over this school so I welcome you to the Charlieville Presbyterian Primary School.

Ladies and gentlemen, take a look around, you will admire it. The quality of the facility speaks directly to our commitment to the concept that where children learn is as important as what they learn.

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Charlieville Presbyterian Primary School.