



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministry of Education

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Quick-action avoids crisis at Palmdale Primary School

The quick-response of the principal and staff of the Palmdale Primary School located on Madeira Street resulted in no injuries to persons and minimal damage to the structure from a fire that started at the school at 8:30 am on Friday, 5th September, 2009 in the administrative block. The fire only affected three rooms; but the odour of smoke was evident in a few rooms.

Mrs. Corzetta Johnson, principal of the school stated that when the fire was discovered the school's evacuation plan was activated and students were guided to the area of the compound unaffected by the situation. She further stated that normally they would move to the playing field but because of the rain they made the adjustment. She also revealed that the students also benefited from the experience of a fire drill they participated in prior to the close of the past school year.

The fire department responded at within minutes of being contacted and contained the fire. Minister of Education, The Honourable Carl W. Bethel and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Elma Garraway also were on the scene shortly after being informed. They along with senior personnel from the Physical Plant Unit of the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Public Works assessed the damage and determined that there were no injuries to students and employees on the campus.

The Minister assured the media who were also present that no students or staff were harmed present and alternative housing would be provided as soon as possible for students and teachers who were displaced by the fire.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Walter Evans addressed the media on the situation noting that an investigation was underway to determine the cause of the blaze.

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