



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Education Towers, No.-5 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad
www.moe.gov.tt

Mayaro Government Primary School Graduation Ceremony 2021

Address

By

Dr the Honourable Nyan Gadsby-Dolly
Minister of Education

Theme: "Rising from the Ashes"

July 12th, 2021

SALUTATIONS

- Mr Andy Paul, Principal, Mayaro Government Primary School
- Dr. Pastor Clive Dottin of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; feature speaker for today
- Representatives from the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association and Parent Teachers' Association
- Teachers
 - Specially invited guests
 - Graduating class of 2021
 - Parents
 - Family members

Good morning!

Congratulations to the 2021 graduating class of Mayaro Government Primary School! It has been a long time coming but we are here today to celebrate! The journey to get to this day was not an easy one. For you the students, your parents, teachers and principal, this last academic year was one that tested us all. However, each and every one of you has shown yourself to be capable of rising above any obstacle and so today; I congratulate and celebrate all of you on this accomplishment!

This year as SEA students, you experienced a unique set of challenges, unlike most that would have come before you. But you also learned a unique set of skills. A global pandemic forced your school to close and everything you once expected changed. This forced all of you to adapt to virtual learning and the looming uncertainty of when the examination would take place. Yet here we are today, you have risen above it all. Your theme "Rising from the Ashes" speaks volumes about how all of you overcame the challenges of a new learning environment, wrote and conquered your exams and now will make the transition from exams to become form one students. What an incredible journey!

As you continue pressing towards your individual goals, I want you all to remember that success will look different for each and every one of you.

You are on your own pathway – yours alone – just as unique as you are.

Even your closest friend, or your twin sibling does not share your journey!

Isn't that fantastic? Some of the tools to take along on your journey are:

1. Adaptability

Never allow yourself to become so strongly focused on a singular way of completing a task that you are unable to adjust if the situation calls for an unexpected change.

2. Kindness

This global pandemic has taught us many lessons about the importance of kindness as we rely on those around us for support and vice versa.

Be kind to the people in your life, including your parents. We are all facing our own challenges and a little kindness can go a long way.

3. Openness

Be open to new experiences and new opportunities. There is no time like the present to say yes and to just try. Many of us did not think that we

could have survived a pandemic, survive a lock down or much less survive our favourite restaurants, beaches and other recreational activities being suspended for long periods of time, but we did, and now all will forever be a significant part of Trinidad and Tobago's history. We are a resilient people who continue to thrive no matter what comes our way!

To the principal, Mr. Andy Paul, your enthusiasm and passion is refreshing at a time when it would be so understandable if you were ready to give up. Your commitment is very much appreciated. To the teachers, your sacrifice is a labour of love. This has not been an easy year and you have sacrificed your personal time and at times finances to assure the success of these students. Along with the Principal and teachers, you, the parents, guardians, and siblings encompass the village that has afforded every graduate the opportunity to celebrate today and I thank you. This period has been one that none of us expected but we have all weathered the storm and are making it through to the best of our abilities. These students are here today as a result of your love, support, and determination to see them succeed and for that, I am grateful.

I am sure that for many of you students, this transition may feel like a scary one. New teachers, new classmates, a new school, again there are some many unknowns. I promise you, everything will be fine.

Remember, you faced the unknowns before and you have risen above; you all have proven that you are braver and stronger than you may have thought. You now have new goals to achieve and with the support of your new teachers, your parents and all the love and support of the staff at Mayaro Government Primary School, you will achieve those goals.

My advice to you is to remember these things as you navigate your lives ahead, **be adaptable, be kind, be open and be honest**. Everything else will be worked out along the way.

Congratulations again, continue to rise and I wish you all the best at your new schools. May God continue to bless you and your families as you press forward towards your goal of success.