



PRESS RELEASE
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UTECH, CRP Remain Committed to MNS' Community Intervention

Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security, Senator Matthew Samuda, is encouraged by the University of Technology's (UTECH) and the Child Resiliency Programme's (CRP) pledge to continue mentoring the over 350 at-risk-youth who participated in the Ministry's Music, Sports and Technology Summer Programme.

According to Paulton Gordon, Director for Community Service and Development at the UTECH, **"we have classes where we bring children in on a Saturday, and UTECH students and teachers would teach them"**. He said the classes may be considered as an extension to the Ministry's initiative for the students who participated in the three-week long summer programme.

Gordon noted that UTECH implemented activities to complement the technology arm of the summer programme, appealing to child creativity and leisure. **"We took the kids to the UTECH campus in groups of 30 and exposed them to basic technology and animation"**, the director explained. Students were also introduced to platforms for online learning such as Zoom and Google Classroom.

Meanwhile, the CRP will continue to play its part in after school engagement for at risk-youth. The programme which is run by Dr. Kim Scott, helps children with personal development life skills and academics.

According to Delano Campbell, a coordinator of the CRP, said the programme is **"tailor made to reach those students who the normal school system would not be able to"**. He noted that with the assistance of the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), the programme is able to engage vulnerable and behaviourally challenged children while providing support intervention through tools such as games and quizzes that stimulate behaviour change.

The summer programme, which was executed under the Ministry's anti-violence campaign, 'Liv Gud', embodied **"a new approach to community intervention. The students will receive back-to-school supplies such as book vouchers, uniforms, shoes and school bags as well as medical checks before the start of the new school year,"** Minister Samuda said.

The Music, Sports and Technology Summer Programme was designed to alleviate negative psychosocial and psychological effects associated with COVID-19 in select communities, eliminating the likelihood of violence against children which, if left untreated, may contribute to victimisation, criminal and violent behaviour.