



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Digital Transformation**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

*Saturday August 20, 2022*

**More Digital Literacy Training to Come**

On Friday August 19, 2022, the Ministry of Digital Transformation, in collaboration with the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP), launched a functional Digital Literacy Programme. It was so well received by the public that registration was almost at full capacity on Saturday.

Minister of Digital Transformation, Senator the Honourable Hassel Bacchus, said while he is not surprised by the uptake, he is encouraged by the response from the public, who welcomed the opportunity for personal and national advancement with open arms.

The functional digital literacy programme is in its first cycle and will be followed by many more offerings from the Ministry under its Digital Skills suite of projects. It is leveraging partnerships with training and development agencies and organisations to deliver this programme.

As the Digital Skills programme of the Ministry expands during the year, courses in digital literacy for intermediate and advanced participants will be rolled out, in collaboration with organisations with whom GoRTT already has enterprise agreements, as well as with other skills training providers. Different demographic groups will be targeted, using specialised delivery formats and classes for over 65s and for younger students. These will feature various subjects including robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR/VR).

“We are working ‘towards our digital future’, and a large part of our vision relies on providing opportunities for as many of our people as possible to interact with technology in meaningful ways, to understand the capabilities of the smart devices we use, and to feel empowered to participate in the digital world,” stated Minister Bacchus.

In its first stage, the *Functional Digital Literacy* course with YTEPP Limited will be available in a fully online format and will focus on topics such as: using the computer to access the internet safely; using the internet efficiently and sending electronic mail (email); creating a Microsoft Word document; using Microsoft at the basic level; completing and submitting online forms; and utilising online government services.

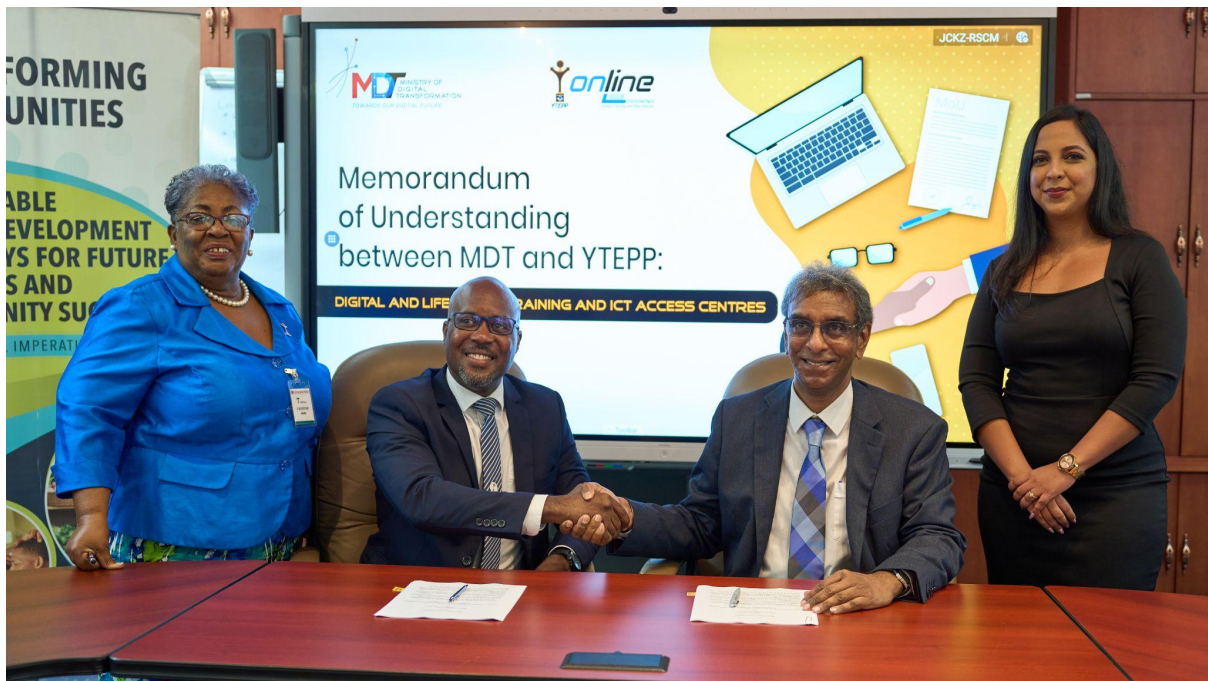
According to findings of the 2021 Digital Inclusion Survey by the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), more than 70% of households have a working fixed broadband Internet service (fixed Internet subscription). The cultural shift that the Ministry of Digital Transformation aims to achieve, is citizens’ understanding of the potential and uses of the internet as a basic good/service, and harnessing its creative and economic potential for digital transformation.

The Ministry of Digital Transformation and YTEPP Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the provision of digital and life skills training for 1,000 citizens in the first instance, with the delivery of the virtual “*Functional Digital Literacy*” course via online platform Moodle. For those registrants who do not have access to devices for online learning, such as desktop computers or laptops, or a reliable internet connection, arrangements will be made for them to use the Ministry’s ICT Access Centres and YTEPP Centres located across Trinidad and Tobago.

Many more persons will be able to take advantage of the free digital training as the programme significantly ramps up in the coming weeks and months.

For more information on the Digital Literacy Programme, and further Digital Skills training, persons may visit the Ministry’s website at [www.mdt.gov.tt](http://www.mdt.gov.tt).

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**Photo caption:** MoU Signed - Senior officials of the Ministry of Digital Transformation and YTEPP Limited sign an MoU for the provision of digital and life skills training. From l-r: Thora Best, Chairwoman, YTEPP Limited; Nigel Parris, CEO, YTEPP Limited; Richard Madray, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Digital Transformation; and Sonya Gyan, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Digital Transformation.