

Official Statement from the President Pastor Leslie Moses

In light of the tragic passing of our member, Mr. Randall Hector on December 31, 2024, I wish to address a matter which has come into the public space and has caused further disquiet in this time of grief and sorrow.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and loved ones of the deceased, Mr. Randall Hector. His passing has left an irreplaceable void in our hearts. His invaluable contributions to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Trinidad and Tobago is acknowledged. We remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting his family, the membership of the church, and the national community during this time of grief.

Following the unfolding of the tragic incident, a photograph of Mr. Lou Lyons, a respected musician and member of the band Freetown Collective, who was present on December 31, 2024 at the church service held at the Stanmore Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church and presided over in part by Mr. Randall Hector was circulated, along with certain references to Mr. Lyons' attendance at and his departure from the said church service which immediately preceded the events which led to the untimely passing of Mr. Randall Hector.

That particular church service, like many others since the Covid Pandemic, was streamed on the World Wide Web, for all to view.

I wish to assure all that the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and or the Governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Trinidad and Tobago in no way whatsoever facilitated, participated in and or encouraged the statements concerning and or any references to Mr. Lyons' attendance at the said church service.

It is deeply regretted that Mr. Lyons' attendance and his participation in the church service have been misrepresented by a person or persons unknown.

On behalf of the South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (SCC), I publicly sympathize with Mr. Lyons for the distress caused by this most regrettable turn of events.

During my visit to the Stanmore Avenue SDA Church on January 4, 2025, while providing support and counselling to our church members in the aftermath of Randall Hector's passing, I expressed regret for the position in which Mr. Lyons has been placed, through no fault of his.

I take this opportunity to publicly denounce the said publication and references to Mr. Lyons, to sympathize with him in this distress and further to remind all not only of the need for

responsibility in the publication and dissemination of information, but also of the need for courtesy, compassion, thoughtfulness and respect for all in so doing.

As we continue to grieve, we also prepare to celebrate the life and legacy of Randall Hector. His funeral service will take place on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the University of the Southern Caribbean. We invite all who are able to join us in honoring a life dedicated to faith, service, and love.

May God's grace guide us as we navigate this challenging time, bringing healing, unity, and peace to our community.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Leslie Moses

President, South Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists