

SFCCU NEWS



SFCCU CREDIT UNION
Co-operative Society Limited

A PUBLICATION OF SFCCU CREDIT UNION CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD . ISSUE 2025/26

Happy
Easter
from the **SFCCU** family



TRINI STYLE HOT-CROSS BUNS RECIPE

Ingredients:

Flour - 4 cups
Dry Yeast - 1/2 oz
Granulated Sugar - 1/2 cup
Salt - 1/4 tsp
Cinnamon Powder - 1/2 tsp
Evaporated Milk - 12oz
(warm) Egg - 1 large
Lemon Essence - 1 tsp
Yellow Food Colouring - a few drops
Marigold Margarine - 3 oz
Currants - 2oz
Raisins - 2oz
Mixed Fruit - 4oz
Brown Sugar - 1/2 cup
Water - 1/2 cup
Mixed Essence - 1 tbsp
Vanilla Essence - 1 tbsp
Bay Leaf - 1
Egg White - 1
Icing Sugar - 1 1/2 cups
Whole Milk/Water - 2 tbsp

Yields 12 BUNS

METHOD

For The Buns: 1. Sift together flour, sugar and cinnamon. 2. Add yeast and mix well. Set aside. 3. Scald milk and add egg, lemon essence and yellow food colouring. Set aside. 4. Cut margarine into flour mixture. 5. Add fruit and mix well. 6. Add milk mixture and mix until just combined then add salt. 7. Knead on a floured surface for 10 minutes. 8. Place in a greased bowl, cover and let rest for 1 hour. 9. Punch down dough. 10. Shape equal pieces of dough into 12 buns and placed on a greased baking sheet. 11. Cover with a warm cloth and let rest one hour. 12. Bake at 325°F for 20 minutes.

For Glaze: 1. Add brown sugar, water, vanilla, mixed essence and bay leaf to a pot and bring to a boil. Stir constantly until all the sugar has dissolved. 2. Remove from heat once reduced to half. 3. Glaze buns while the buns are still hot. 4. Set aside to cool completely.

For Royal Icing: 1. Place egg white into bowl and using a hand held mixer or standing mixer, beat egg whites until frothy. 2. Add icing sugar bit by bit until a firm consistency is achieved. 3. If icing becomes too thick, add milk or water little by little to thin the icing until a desired consistency is achieved. 4. Make crosses on cooled buns and enjoy!



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SFCCU'S PRESIDENT MESSAGE ON RESPONSIBLE BORROWING



It is with great joy and immeasurable delight that I welcome this edition of the Education Committee's publication. I extend best wishes to all readers for a successful and rewarding 2026, filled with renewed thinking, clear purpose and a continued desire for a better day ahead.

In an interview published in the Business Guardian, Ms. Dianne Joseph, Chief Operating Officer of the Co-operative League of Trinidad and Tobago, noted that "in times of economic volatility, citizens traditionally view the credit union as a safe haven..... our members are choosing to preserve their capital and pursue provident and productive loans." This statement reflects the fundamental purpose of the Credit Union, as outlined in its Bye-Laws, which include:

- **Improving the economic and social well-being of members by promoting thrift, that is, the careful and responsible use of money and other resources.**
- **Providing loans to members for provident and productive purposes, including responsible personal needs and activities that create, grow or improve financial stability and well-being.**

In periods of economic uncertainty, it is important to carefully consider the reason for borrowing. As highlighted by Ms. Dianne Joseph, there is a clear distinction between “consumer spending” and “necessity borrowing,” and members are encouraged to make prudent financial decisions.

In preparing to borrow (take a loan), members must always be mindful of the five (5) Cs of credit:

1)Character (Your Personal and Credit History)

2)Capacity (Your ability to repay the loan)

3)Capital (Your net worth)

4)Collateral (Your security for the loan)

5)Condition (The Economic Outlook)



Members must also understand the responsibility that comes with borrowing from the Credit Union. Important considerations include:

- **A loan represents a commitment to repay on time, whether by Payroll Deduction (PRD), Banker's Order (BO) or Over the Counter (OTC) payments.**
- **While repaying a loan, members continue to build on their shares and deposit accounts.**
- **Timely repayment helps to establish and maintain a good credit history. This is a major incentive as a poor/bad credit history can rule you out as a good loan prospect.**
- **Members should give consideration to appropriate loan protection measures.**
- **Interest is charged on the reducing balance.**

Financial counselling remains a vital service of the Credit Union and an important responsibility of the Loans Officers. Officers must be knowledgeable of the loan products, finance and accounting principles, use of technology, compliance requirements, and delinquency management in order to guide members effectively.

Members are encouraged to take a loan with a sense of purpose. The Credit Union movement is founded on the principle of 'People Helping People' and through responsible borrowing and sound financial decisions, both the members and the Credit Union can look forward to a strong and successful future.

See you at our 65th Annual General Meeting on Saturday 23rd May, 2026 at 12:30 pm.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A MEMBER

RIGHTS OF A MEMBER

A right is what a member of a co-operative deserves to be given, or is entitled to get, enjoy or feel. To enjoy these rights, a member must have paid the necessary membership fees and purchased at least one minimum share and have deposits in the SFCCU Society.

OWNERS OF THE SOCIETY

By law as a member, you own the Credit Union, and you control it too. You are important. The credit union exists to be of service to you.

YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT

As a member -owner, by participating or attending our Annual General Meeting you have the right to elect and be elected to the society. Your questions and opinions are important and are always appreciated.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

You have the right to vote on all matters put before the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Your vote is important for the selection of the officers who take responsibility at the Board and Committees, thereby ensuring the successful performance of the Credit Union. The selected officer must fit the criteria within the by-laws.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF A MEMBER cont'd

YOUR INPUT IS VITAL

Your input on how we can best serve our members play a vital role in the overall growth of the Society. Always remember that the Credit Union is there for the Service of its Members.

MEMBERS OBLIGATIONS/DUTIES

A member's obligation is what the Society expects from a member. As much as a member enjoys rights from the society, he/she has an obligation to:

- Attend and participate in passing resolutions at general meetings.
- Observe and comply with all the society's by-laws and decisions made in accordance with the by-laws.
- Purchase shares or make any payments as provided for in the by-laws of the Society.
- Attend members' education meetings.
- Repay loans as per the agreement.
- Promote the society and its services or products.
- Pay for the debt of the society at the time of liquidation where the assets are insufficient to meet liabilities.
- Support projects of the society approved by the relevant authority.
- Respect the authority regulating the society.

RETIREMENT PLANNING



The word Retirement.

Retirement! The very word can invoke a range of emotions. Retirement is the withdrawal from active working life, typically occurring in one's 60s, requiring comprehensive planning to balance financial assets, health, and lifestyle. For others, it may bring a sense of uncertainty or dread, especially when faced with the reality of a significantly reduced monthly pension after decades of working.

Why Retirement Planning Matters?

Planning for retirement is essential for ensuring financial security and peace of mind during your golden years. A sound retirement plan involves a long-term strategy of saving, investing, and eventually drawing from your accumulated funds to maintain a comfortable lifestyle.

According to 2022 data from the World Bank, the average life expectancy is 75.94 years for men and 78.15 years for women. In Trinidad and Tobago, where the average retirement age is between 60 and 65, many of us will likely spend more years in retirement. The question is: will you have the financial resources to sustain yourself during this chapter of your life?



What is the Average amount of Money you Need to Save?

According to a United Nations Federal Credit Union article:

The 50/30/20 rule is a simple budgeting framework that divides after-tax income into 50% for needs (housing, food, utilities), 30% for wants (entertainment, dining out, hobbies), and 20% for savings, investments, or debt repayment. It helps manage finances without complex, detailed tracking.

Key Components Breakdown:

- 50% - Needs (Essentials): Expenses you must pay to live, such as rent/mortgage, groceries, utilities, insurance, and minimum debt payments.
- 30% - Wants (Lifestyle): Discretionary spending on non-essentials that improve your quality of life, such as subscriptions, restaurants, shopping, and entertainment.
- 20% - Savings & Debt (Financial Goals): Money allocated for future financial security, including building an emergency fund, investing, or paying off debt above minimum requirements.

Consistently keep on Track with your Retirement Plan

Once you've identified a plan that suits you, stay on track with your contributions. It's best to create a salary deduction facility, with money automatically being deducted from your bank account and going straight to your retirement plan.

Retirement planning takes effort but knowing where to start makes all the difference. Be disciplined, it's your future self you're saving for.

STAY CONNECTED

ON SOCIAL MEDIA



1 (868) 758-0318



@sfccucu



@sfccucu



info@sfccu.com



FIND US HERE

ADD US ON ALL YOUR FAVORITE PLATFORMS FOR THE MOST UPDATED INFORMATION ON:

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Stay Informed on the most relevant Facts and Important Notices about SFCCU.

NEW PRODUCTS

Stay in the loop for New information on loans and other Services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't miss out on exciting entertainment! Stay tuned for the best free and discounted future events.

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

SFCCU outreach is not a one-size-fits-all Engagement; rather, it is tailored to the unique economic, social, and cultural contexts of each community. This adaptability is crucial as it demonstrates the success and sustainability of any outreach initiative.



WELCOME CORNER

Her aim and objective at SFCCU is to manage day-to-day human resources operations, including recruitment, onboarding, employee relations, policy implementation, and performance management, and act as a liaison between management and staff to foster a productive workplace.

Ms. Melissa Mitchell



Human Resource Officer

 SFCCU Credit Union Co-operative Society Limited
Customer Suggestion Form

We value your feedback! Please take a moment to share your suggestions or ideas to help us serve you better.

Date: _____

Branch Name: _____

Your Suggestion/Feedback:
What would you like us to improve or introduce?

- Service Quality
- Staff Attitude
- Product Offerings
- Mobile/Online Banking
- Branch Facilities

Comments: _____

Thank you for helping us improve!
All suggestions are reviewed and kept confidential.
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Your Suggestion Matters!

Did you Know!

"Your opinion matters" your feedbacks are valued, respected, and considered important in decision-making or discussions. And can influence outcomes, fostering inclusion and showing that your voice is heard.

Every SFCCU location has a **Customer Suggestion Form**.

These forms can be found at the front desk of every SFCCU location.



SFCCU CREDIT UNION
Co-operative Society Limited

LEGACY LOAN

Honouring the legacy we have built together. The Legacy Loan reflects our long-standing commitment to trust, stability and member growth across generations.



Loan Amount
Up to
\$75,000

Minimum Share
Requirement
\$10,000

Normal lending criteria apply.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS APPLY

Head Office | High Street | Siparia | Point Fortin
657-5669 | 653-7745 | 649-3300 | 648-3504
info@sfccu.com | www.sfccu.com

5 BENEFITS OF SAVING MONEY

1. You'll be financially independent sooner

Building up a savings nest egg through your Share or Ordinary Deposit Account can help you achieve this aim, as you could use these funds to help get on the property ladder, pay off Credit Card debts or even student loans.

2. You won't have to worry if you're hit with any unforeseen expenses

At some point all of us face a hefty bill we hadn't planned for, whether it's to repair your car or replace a broken laptop. If you've got savings in place, you can use some of these to cover costs, without having to turn to a credit card or personal loan to make ends meet.

3. You'll have financial back-up in place if you lose your job

Suddenly finding yourself unemployed can be frightening, but it's something many people will experience at some point. Having a savings buffer in place to help cover your living expenses while you find a new job can provide you with real peace of mind.

4. You'll be prepared if your circumstances change

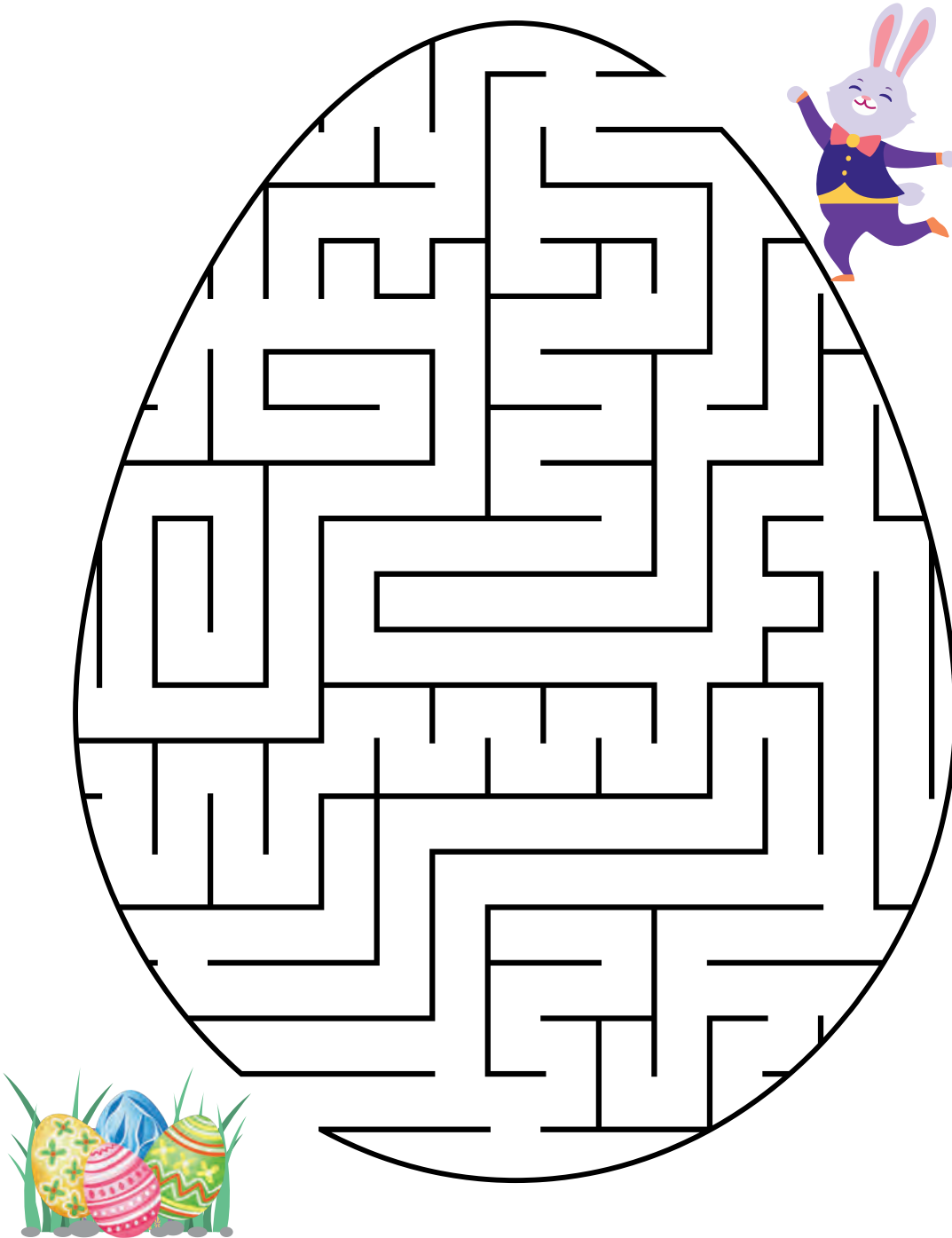
Getting married or having kids might be the last thing on your mind right now, but as you get older your priorities might change. Big life events such as tying the knot or bringing up sprogs will be that much easier if you've got some savings available.

5. You'll be more comfortable in retirement

When you start the savings habit, it pays to think about the long-term, as well as what might be just around the corner. The Government pension is unlikely to provide you with enough income to cover all your costs when you eventually stop working, particularly as the age at which you'll be able to claim it is moving gradually further away, so the earlier you think about retirement planning the better.

Easter Maze Activity

Help the Easter Bunny find his way through the maze and to the missing Easter eggs.






SFCCU CREDIT UNION
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JOIN SFCCU'S YOUTH ARM!

- > Learn, Lead And Grow In Your Leadership And Financial Skills.
- > Let Your Voice Be Heard On Matters That Impact Our Community.
- > Be An Agent Of Change, Participating In Projects That Empower Others.
- > Connect & Collaborate With Other Brilliant Young Leaders.

**AGES
16 – 35**

REGISTER NOW!

educationcommitteesfccu@gmail.com |  1 (868) 758-0318



Empowering The Next Generation Of SFCCU Leaders!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2025/26

SFCCU ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025

SEA, CSEC, CAPE & TERTIARY STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO APPLY FOR AWARDS IN 4 CATEGORIES

SEA, CSEC & CAPE
-Application Form
-Copy of Results

TERTIARY
-Application Form
-Successfully completed 1st year
-Copy of Results
-Proof of Continuation of studies

"CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES OF 2025!"

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:
HIGH ST., SAN FERNANDO, IRVING ST., SAN FERNANDO, SIPARIA, POINT FORTIN
EMAIL TO: EDUCATIONCOMMITTEE@SFCCU.IGMAIL.COM

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY SEPTEMBER 21, 2025



SFCCU Credit Union Presents

Essay Writing Competition

Age Group - 13 to 15 YEARS

Join Us in promoting youth involvement in the Credit Union

ENTER TO WIN ATTRACTIVE CASH AND SHARE PRIZES!!!

CHOOSE ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS:

1. How Teens Can Help Shape the Future of Our Credit Union.
2. Why Every Teen Should Be a Credit Union Member.
3. The Role of Youth Ambassadors in Growing the Credit Union.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 2ND SEPTEMBER 2025



SFCCU CREDIT UNION Co-operative Society Limited

FINANCIAL SEMINAR PROSPERITY

RICHARD ALLAN
GENERAL MANAGER
SFCCU

Tuesday, 28 October 2025 From 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM ONLINE Via Zoom

Topics: • Budgeting • Basics of Financial Planning
• Investment • Savings and Insurance



EDUCATION COMMITTEE MANDATE

An Education Committee mandate generally focuses on overseeing, developing, and improving educational programs, curriculum, and standards to ensure high-quality learning.

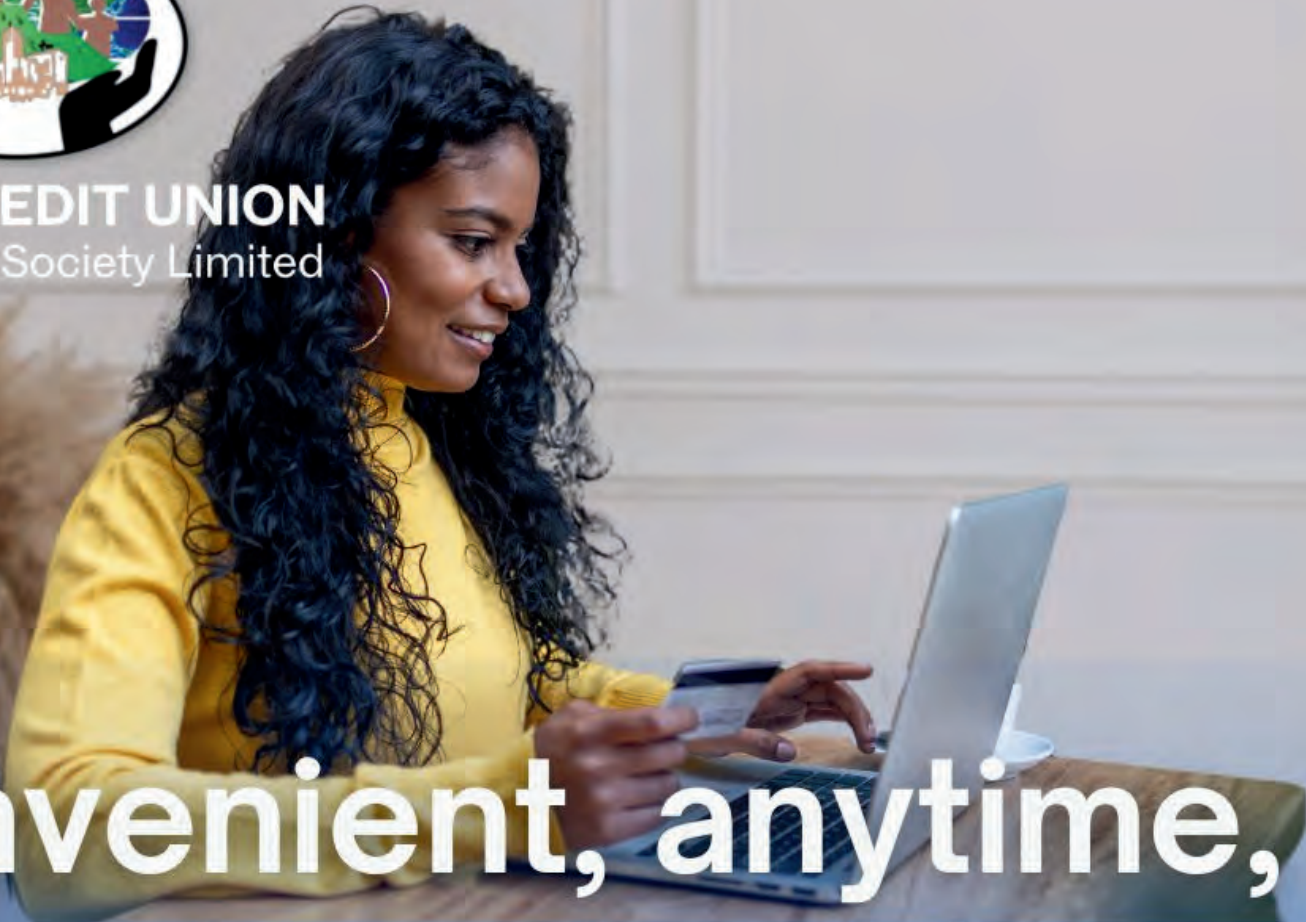


THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SHALL:

1. Be appointed within fourteen (14) days after the first Board meeting.
2. Submit within Twenty one (21) days of appointment a budget of its annual operations for approval by the Board.
3. Provide education material and assist in the provision of library facilities for use by members.
4. Generate interest in the Society and the Co-operative movement as a whole.
5. Report Quarterly on all its activities to the Board.



SFCCU CREDIT UNION
Co-operative Society Limited



Convenient, anytime, anywhere banking

WITH SFCCU ONLINE BANKING

Skip the Branch, Save time.

- 24/7 Account Access
- Secure and Easy to Use
- Transfer Funds
- Check Balances
- Statement Requests



www.sfccu.com

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025

A SENSATIONAL RETURN

After a (5) year hiatus, The SFCCU Credit Union Children's Christmas Party, a major annual event in Trinidad, returned in December 2025.

The sounds of sirens signaled the arrival of Santa Claus; the kids and their Parents/Guardians were thrilled to see Santa arrival.

Beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts were handed out to the kids by Santa and his SFCCU helpers.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025

A HUGE TURN OUT



FAREWELL TO AN SFCCU EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Michelle Worrell - Morris
(Human Resource Officer)

After over (20) Twenty years of incredible service, it is hard to say goodbye.

Your wisdom, leadership, and contribution to this Co-operative Society are unmatched.

Thank you for setting a standard of excellence.

You are not just leaving a job; you are leaving a legacy. We will miss your guidance and presence, but we are so grateful for the time we shared.

Congratulations on an incredible career!

Your hard work and creativity have been an inspiration. Thank you for everything you've contributed.

FAREWELL TO AN SFCCU EMPLOYEE

Mr. Richard Allan (General Manager)

After (15) Fifteen Months in office our then General Manager has tendered his resignation, dated 11th December 2025.

Having played a pivotal role in overseeing daily operations, driving strategic growth, and ensuring profitability for the Co-operative Society.

Thank you for your incredible leadership and the opportunities you've provided.

We at SFCCU have learned so much under your guidance and wish you all the best in your next endeavor.

It has been an honor working with you.