

TBBC GETS A NEW HOME

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The Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) cut the ribbon to formally open the new office of the Trinidad Boxing Board of Control (TBBC), at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain, on Friday 16 March, 2018. Also present at the ribbon cutting ceremony were officials from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) and the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT).



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The TBBC, which is responsible for the monitoring and oversight of professional boxing in

Trinidad and Tobago, was formerly located at St. Ann's. In touring the new offices, the Honourable Minister said: "This location has exceeded my expectations. The Ministry is very happy to be able to provide a new home for the TBBC. This will assist in reducing expenditure, as the Board will no longer have an overhead cost for rent".

The relocation of the TBBC follows similar measures last fiscal year, in the removal of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT) from Port of Spain to the National Cycling Centre in Couva and the re-siting of the Ministry's Head Office at #2 Elizabeth Street, St. Clair, to facilitate the housing of both the Sport and Youth portfolios, which were previously in separate accommodations. **Minister Smith noted:** "These relocations will save millions of dollars in annual rent and the Ministry is keen to realize any savings which can go back to the athletes and maintenance of our facilities."

Dr. Barry Ishmael, Chairman of the Trinidad Boxing Board of Control, in his remarks, applauded the leadership, motivation and vision of the Honourable Minister and promised to properly utilise the new space to advance the sport of boxing. Dr. Ishmael noted that under the Minister's stewardship, the TBBC was able to build capacity and take on a new strategic direction to encourage people to get into boxing. Dr. Ishmael ended by thanking the Honourable Minister, the MSYA and SPORTT for their astute roles in promoting the sport of boxing.

The Honourable Minister was as gracious in return and thanked Dr. Ishmael and the TBBC for assisting the Ministry in its thrust to establish the Combat Sport Commission (CSC), which will replace the TBBC and treat with the regulation of all Combat Sports in Trinidad and Tobago.

The MSYA is also presently spearheading other major developments in sport administration and promotion, such as the establishment of the Sport Commission, the tabling and implementation of the National Policy on Sport 2017 – 2027 and the institution of a formal Incentive and Reward Framework.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs (MSYA) continues to work together with all stakeholders to promote youth development and empowerment, as well as total participation and excellence in sport.