## A Championship of Firsts for T&T

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These were some of the sentiments of the Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport & Youth Affairs after witnessing the aquatics milestone on Sunday evening. "We were confident that the Aquatic Centre would adequately meet the demands of such a large tournament, which was ably managed by ASATT. Equally as the first time hosts of all five disciplines of the Championships, we never doubted that Team TTO's home crowd advantage would be a factor in the athlete's performances. We congratulate all the athletes and their coaches for the commitment and dedication shown over the past few months. The entire aquatics community should be proud of the record-breaking accomplishments at CCCAN 2017, both in and out of the pool."

The Honourable Dr Keith Rowley, alongside Minister Smith, came out in full support of the team attending water polo and swimming events with their families during the Championships. Prime Minster Rowley saluted the young athletes saying, "You have made the entire country proud of your accomplishments. Success does not come easy but your hard word, passionate commitment, grit and determination has paid off. Team TTO is today an inspiration for all who aspire to greatness in our nation."

Trinidad and Tobago did not only emerge champions overall but earned a record haul of 73 medals, the most in the country's history of participation at CCCAN. Among the additional firsts recorded by Team TTO during CCCAN 2017 were a competitive diver Alyssa Ramlakhan winning gold in the Springboard events, standing room only at the Aquatic Centre for the final two days of the event, as well as registering more than half a dozen meet records. These feats bode well for the present and future of aquatics in Trinidad and Tobago, as we look ahead to cheering on one the CCCAN stars Dylan Carter at the World Championships to be held from 14-30 July in Budapest, Hungary.