

## WORKS BEGIN ON THE LAVENTILLE COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

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A turning of the sod today marked the beginning of works for a Community Swimming Pool ("CSP") to be situated in Laventille. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago ("UDeCOTT") collaborated on this ground breaking event and are all partnering to spearhead this project.



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The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs' aim for this project is to redevelop the existing Laventille Sports Centre site with the addition of a new community swimming pool. It is expected that through this initiative, the community will benefit from recreational opportunities, as well as increased community participation and interaction among both children and adults.

The construction of this community pool responds to the clamour of the residents of Laventille and environs for such a facility. With the installation of their very own community swimming pool, all residents of Laventille, Belmont, Morvant and Port-of-Spain, regardless of age, can now use the facility for recreation, 'learn-to-swim programmes' and even community swim competitions.

In his address at the sod turning ceremony this morning, the Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs noted that this swimming pool will be the first to be constructed in a community across Trinidad and Tobago within a ten (10) year period, with the last one having been installed in Cocoyea back in 2007. Minister Smith highlighted that the facility will not be geared toward swimming only but will cater to "Aquatics" which encompasses swimming, water polo, and synchronized swimming.

He highlighted that Laventille has unwavering talent that he hopes would develop and continue to expand, to further augment the complement of national and international athletes that have arisen out of Laventille. He emphasized that for this project, the works are being done "by design, data and information". Works for phase one of the Laventille Community Swimming Pool are expected to be completed in six (6) to eight (8) months.