

**November 24, 2015**

**The Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport & Youth Affairs tours Cricket Academy at Tarouba with Legendary Cricketer Brian Lara.**

The Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs toured the UDeCOTT project-managed Brian Lara Cricket Academy at Tarouba with legendary Cricketer Brian Charles Lara on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Also touring the facility were UDeCOTT Chairman Noel Garcia, in the company of other UDeCOTT Executives, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board Azim Bassarath, Officials of the Ministry of Sport, Executives of the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago and other Cricket Stakeholders.

While the Honourable Minister, Brian Lara, Noel Garcia and Azim Bassarath all lamented that it was indeed unfortunate that the Facility sat languishing for the last five years, Minister Smith stressed that that episode is now in the past and going forward, the Government is about bringing the project to completion.

Minister Smith was also pleased to be informed by UDeCOTT that the structure was found to be sound, after Consultants conducted a Complete Conditions Survey at the Facility, which included Architectural, Structural, Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Surveys.

Minister Smith was adamant that all Stakeholders would be duly consulted to ensure the facility was as user friendly as possible, hence maximizing value for

money to the benefit of all taxpayers.

Brian Lara expressed sentiments that he was looking forward to completion of the Cricket Academy, adding that he hoped that other sporting disciplines could find a place on the periphery of the Cricket Academy Site, since he was aware that this was envisaged in the planning stages of the project, which had other phases of development.

UDeCOTT's Chairman Noel Garcia gave an estimated timeline to completion of June 2016, well in time for the start of the following Cricket Season.

Ends.

Contact: Roxanne Stapleton-Whyms

Media, Events and Community Outreach Manager

Mobile: 868-703-3266

Office: 868-627-0083 Ext 1251

Fax: 868-624-0801

E-mail: [roxannes@udecott.com](mailto:roxannes@udecott.com)

38-40 Sackville Street

Port of Spain

Trinidad, W.I.









