

**TO:**

**Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association**  
**(TTBA)**

President: Mr. Rahul Rampersad  
Vice President: Mr. Navin Gayapersad  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary: Ms. Sharlene Lewis  
Board Members

**FROM:**

Melvin Thomas – Technical Director

**RE:**

Technical Director's Report for the period  
March 2017 - March 2018

**DATE:**

March 1, 2018

In the last Technical Director report dated March 8, 2017, it was highlighted that our training and competition was out of alignment with Annual and Quadrennial Planning. We needed to:

- Examine our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (S.W.O.T. Analysis)
- Make necessary changes and implement a “Long Term Athlete Development (L.T.A.D.) Programme that is beneficial to Trinidad and Tobago.
- Finalize plans for the following certification Programme:
  - CABTAT Level - 1,2,3
  - B.W.F. – Level 1
  - Meet Secondary Schools Badminton Representative, Mr. Gowkeran Ali – Re: Secondary Schools League and Shuttle Time Coaching
  - Review of the Ranking System & Selection Criteria
  - Assessment of Players forming an A Squad for the National coaches and A B Squad involving hands on experience for CABTAT coaches.
  - Meet with National coaches to formulate a National Coaching Framework.

I, along with Janine Martin-Reyes participated and were certified as Sport For Life (International) Leaders giving us the vision to view our present position as an organization and provide us with the necessary tools to move forward with the L.T.A.D Programme.

Our S.W.O.T. situation was circularized to clubs and the TTBA Board via an L.T.A.D. Framework document.

I was invited to a meeting with the secondary schools sports teachers organized by Mr. Gowkeran Ali. The Trinidad and Tobago Secondary School Badminton Association (TTSSBA) was formed at this meeting with Ms. Susan Maharaj being elected as President. During the August 2017 school vacation period, in collaboration with TTSSBA, I conducted two CABTAT certification courses (Level 1), which included Physical Literacy and Shuttle Time.

Over fifty (50) teachers were certified making it possible to implement the L.T.A.D. and Shuttle Time Programmes in schools and communities. Over Thirty (30) coaches from clubs were certified CABTAT Levels 1, 2 & 3 during the period September –December 2017. Certified CABTAT members now number close to 100. A CABTAT meeting will be called to formulate a working infrastructure.

During the September-December, 2017 school term, the TTSSBA organized and executed a successful schools tournament involving the five educational districts in a preliminary and finals format.

TTSSBA Plans for 2018 are been finalized.

B.W.F. Level 1 Coaching Plans had to be shelved until the visit of International Coach, Mr. Martin Van Dooremaĳen.

The ranking system, Selection Criteria, Player assessment, Squad/Team Selection, Training and Competition have been out of alignment or not up to par due to one or more of the following reasons:

- No documents at TD transition/handover time in January 2017.
- Absence/Rejection of Criteria and Policy
- Unavailability of Training Venues
- Resistance to change
- Unwillingness to cooperate
- Amateur status of volunteers/players/coaches
- Unconstitutional procedures
- Health and Safety Concerns

During the period covered by this report, March 8, 2017 – March 18, 2018, Trinidad and Tobago participated in the following tournaments:

- SOLO Juniors & Seniors
- PANAM Juniors in Canada
- CAREBACO Juniors/ Seniors & PANAM U19 International in T & T
- PANAM Continental Championships, (Senior Women & Men) in T & T

After the SOLO Open Tournament, the selectors (Melvin Thomas, Daron Dasent, Stephanie Mitchell, Navin Gayapersad, Zeudi Mack) selected squads in the U11, U13, U15, U17, U19 and Seniors to undergo National Training for the following:

- CAREBACO Championships (Juniors & Seniors)
- PANAM Continental Championships (Seniors Only)

The national coaches for CAREBACO were:

### **JUNIORS**

Stephanie Mitchell (Head Coach)

Janine Martin-Reyes

Anand Maharaj

Terrence Rivas

Training assistance from coach certification participants:

Kelly Mollah

Christopher Joachim

Brandon Mollah

Trevor Babwah

Allister Urquhart

Meera Mahabir

Cindy Ramroop

### **SENIORS**

Daron Dasent (Head Coach) with assistance from Keeron Garcia

For PANAM Continental Championships the coaches were:

Daron Dasent Coach 1

Keeron Garcia Coach 2

Melvin Thomas -Team Manager

Training Assistance was provided by:

Jeremy Lewis

Stephanie Mitchell

Milind Ogale

Melvin Thomas

At training, the Juniors regularity and punctuality were good as compared to the Seniors whose regularity and punctuality were unsatisfactory. For one reason or another, as stated before, there was absenteeism. From an allotment of ten (10) men and ten (10) women for the PanAm Championships we could only muster five (5) men and four (4) women, four being the minimum number of eligible players.

Team Selection for CAREBACO was done by having playoffs as part of training. For the PANAM Continental Championships, playoffs as part of training were used in Round Robin Format for both Singles and Doubles.

Trinidad and Tobago had its best ever medal haul at CAREBACO (8 Gold, 11 Silver & 23 Bronze) and placed third in the Junior Team Event having been unplaced in the standings in 2016. We also obtained Bronze medals in the MD-U19 (Renaldo Sinanan & Stefano Bedasie) and WD-U19 (Ananda Ramsingh & Sandhya Cassie) in the PANAM U19 International.

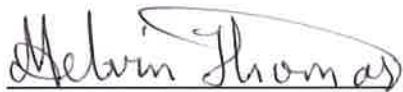
In spite of our woes, the Seniors must be commended for their effort as they played better in the PANAM Continental than at CAREBACO.

International, high performance coach, Martin Van Dooremalen of Holland was assigned to assess the state of badminton in Trinidad and Tobago. He met and spoke with badminton stakeholders, visited clubs gathering information and giving advice. From his observations, findings and report, he said and I know, from a high performance perspective, that Trinidad and Tobago is at an unsatisfactory level. The motivational part is that we have knowledge and experience. Coach Martin has suggested a comprehensive plan which we have agreed to adopt with necessary changes to improve our stature in the Badminton World.

**WE MUST ACT NOW!**

Thank you for the opportunity to report.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melvin Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Melvin Thomas

Technical Director

Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association

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