

## New Meteorological Facility Opens in Tobago

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley officially opened a new Meteorological Facility in Tobago on Tuesday 10th January, 2017. The Prime Minister delivered the feature address at the formal opening ceremony. During his address, he underscored that “the facility has the potential to contribute to the scientific development of the understanding of our nation and our region and also contribute to our economic wellbeing”. He also underlined that Trinidad and Tobago is going through a difficult economic period, but while there are ups and downs in life, the new meteorological facility represents the commitment of a vision to get something done regardless of the circumstances. The ceremonial ribbon cutting and unveiling of commemorative plaque were also done by the Prime Minister.



Ceremonial ribbon cutting being done by the Prime Minister, THA Chief Secretary and Government Ministers

The facility is located at Cromstain Trace, Crown Point and includes an administration/operation building, an instrument enclosure, car park and ancillary facilities. The station is outfitted with a forecast room, observation deck, conference and media room, mechanical/electrical workshop, archive room, gym, sick bay, library and break out room.



Dr. Rowley unveiling commemorative plaque

The Crown Point Meteorological Office in Tobago began operations as an observation station in 1967. Currently, it also provides a tourism forecast for stakeholders in Tobago. Delivering remarks at the ceremony, Mr. Marlon Noel, Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) and Permanent Representative to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) stated “in order to meet the current and future requirements for weather and climate products and services, the TTMS requires a modern well-structured institution with adequate infrastructure, state of the art meteorological equipment and well-trained technical staff, and therefore we are thankful that Tobago staff have been given this new facility”. He noted that improved infrastructure enables the TTMS to move forward into new areas of service delivery and the organization will now work towards developing the capacity of the Tobago staff to provide services in other areas of meteorology. The new facility will help the TTMS enhance the services it provides to stakeholders in the local, regional and international community.

The state-of-the-art facility is intended to function as a disaster shelter since it is built to withstand a category 3 hurricane and earthquake of magnitude 6.2 on the Richter scale. The building also has the capacity to operate as a substitute provider of all essential meteorological services in the event that the Trinidad office is unable to function in the wake of a natural disaster or other emergencies.



Members of staff from the Tobago Office at the opening ceremony

The staff will move into the new building on a phased basis and the facility will become fully operational within the coming weeks.