



Senator Ian Roach praises NAAATT at their Annual Awards

Senator Ian Roach delivered the feature address and commended the NAAATT for its sterling efforts over the past year. He emphasised how impressed he was of the initiative taken by the NAAA in making him feel welcomed and having him as a feature speaker at the event.

He noted that individuals who are differently abled are marginalised in T&T, citing our Para-Olympians as one example, but NAAA are setting a trend in making them feel comfortable and hoped that other NSO's would follow.

His daughter Ianna Roach, a budding shot-putter, won the award for Female Youth Athlete of the year. Adell Colthrust, who recently won the Junior Sportsman of the year at the T&T Olympic Committee Awards, was the Male Youth Athlete of the year.

Colthrust and Roach cited hard work as the main factor in their success. This was echoed by the honourable senator who implored of the athletes that they were given gifts but success would only come if they had the courage to work hard.



Senator Ian Roach and his shot-putter daughter, Ianna Roach, winner of the Female Youth Athlete of the year award. See all photos at www.naaatt.org

President of the NAAA, Mr. Ephraim Serette, in his address gave hope for the future as although he recognised that 2017 was a hard year for the Association in terms of finances “reform and re-growth” were already underway. The focus of 2018 was for the NAAA to evolve and modernise operations while generating new revenue through new sponsors.

With this plan in place, government funding will be less of a factor in ensuring that the athletes are able to gain support for

continuing excellence. Despite this pledge, the Minister of Sport Darryl Smith, was still able to provide some hope in terms of the government continuing to provide proper support.

He noted that a policy for incentives was currently before parliament to encourage and reward success. In addition, work on repairing the various stadia across the country for the athletes to train had recently commenced and would continue over the next year.