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A NATIONAL SPORT BODY

Joseph's broader vision is to see dragon boating recognised by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago as a national sport, alongside cricket and football. Official recognition would mean greater resources, infrastructure, and opportunities for athletes. A previous attempt to establish a national team faltered, but Joseph is determined to revive the programme and see a national body in place for the sport. "It takes at least two years of training and screening to prepare a national team," he explains.

FRATERNITY

For Joseph, dragon boating is more than a sport—it is a community. He envisions a federation where clubs not only compete but also collaborate through fundraisers, social events, and collective advocacy.

"It is a family now," he says, "but I want more togetherness. I would like to build the fraternity, have more people on board, more corporate teams, more school teams. Especially school teams, because the

Younger ones are the one who will take it further and stay longer in it."

COACHING POOL

A major initiative under his leadership is the training of coaches. The Federation currently works with 24 teams, each led by its own coach. However, Joseph notes that formal certification programmes do not yet exist locally; instead, coaches are drawn from seasoned athletes who possess both technical skill and the ability to pass on knowledge.

To expand the sport, Joseph hopes to build a larger pool of qualified coaches who can support schools and youth groups. "It makes no sense to approach schools if, when they sign up, we have a shortage of coaches," he explains.

SCHOOLS

For a school to participate, the school's principal and a teacher must partner with students and parents to take up the sport. Although 12 schools out of the 14 will be participating in the 2025