

National Steel Orchestra on a go-slow

TG 11 Aug 97 p. 6

WITH less than 30 days to go before the carded Independence Day launch of the country's second national steel orchestra, preparations appear to be on hold, according to President of Pan Trinbago, Patrick Arnold.

Arnold said: "It has been three-weeks since the organisation's central executive last meet with Culture Minister Daphne Phillips on the matter.

At that meeting we maintained our position not to accept the imple-

mentation of a board to manage the national steel orchestra, since under the Pan Trinbago (Incorporated) Act of 1986, the steelband body is responsible for all matters relating to the steelband.

The Minister returned

to cabinet to convey our position, and to date we have not received word on this subject," he said.

Arnold appeared quite disheartened and livid by the recent turn of events.

"We could have focused our energies on several

other pan related projects. Instead, we dedicated ourselves to work with the current administration, to give birth to the country's second national steel orchestra," he lamented.

Exodus and Tropical Angel Harps Steel Orches-

tra are two of the steelbands who have submitted names in a bid to secure a place in the national steelband.

On the issue of outstanding Panorama monies owed totalling \$1,350,000 Arnold said "Pan Trinbago was informed that funds have been released to the National Carnival Commission (NCC)."

He is hopeful that part of those funds will be dispensed to the steelband body so it can pay its workers and truckers.

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