

Band members rise up against Pan Trinbago

By TERRY JOSEPH

PROMINENT attorney, Theodore Guerra, yesterday said that his collective client, comprising some 70 per cent of the members of Pan Trinbago would, if necessary, get a court order to compel the organisation's executive to hold an election by the end of next month.

Of the 192 bands registered with Pan Trinbago, about 135 have signed a petition drawn up by Guerra on the instruction of the caucus that piloted the move. The petition, which is scheduled to be delivered early next week, demands that the Pan Trinbago executive holds a general meeting within 14 days of receipt.

No annual general meeting has been held since the current executive assumed office late in 1996. If the meeting is convened, the client is demanding that accounts for the past three

years be presented and a date set for the organisation's triennial convention. If no move is made to convene the general meeting, Guerra said he had instructions from the client to seek redress through the courts.

Describing the development as unprecedented in the history of the steelband movement, Guerra said: "Serious concerns had been raised by a majority of the membership of Pan Trinbago, about the manner in which the present executive is fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities. The said members have expressed their fears that there seems to be gross neglect on the part of the central executive in reporting to the membership on the conduct of the affairs of the association."

Speaking at a news conference at his Park Plaza chambers, Guerra quoted liberally from the Pan Trinbago constitu-

tion, showing reason why the general meeting, convention and elections must be held before October 31.

"You cannot have an organisation in which the general membership does not know its financial situation. Furthermore," he said, "members have also expressed grave concerns regarding what seems to be an impasse between the Ministry of Culture and Pan Trinbago and the failure by the Ministry to remit to Pan Trinbago certain sums."

Guerra said while the petition had attracted much more than the mandatory 60 per cent required to demand a special general meeting, he was still inviting those bands that had not yet had an opportunity to sign the document, to come to his offices to do so.

Pan president Patrick Arnold could not be reached for a response.

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