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Panmen end Consultation with hope for movement

By JOHN BABB

STEELBANDSMEN, representing bands throughout Trinidad and Tobago, left the Convention Centre at Chaguaramas yesterday with new hope for the progressive development of the country's unique art form.

Their departure marked the end of a two-and-a-half-day National Consultation at which the panmen put their problems to Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams and his Cabinet.

They have now moved from the stage of talk to action, as Dr. Williams indicated yesterday at the close.

And he immediately set February 7 as the date on which the very important Tripartite Committee on Sponsorship will meet at White Hall.

The committee which will be under the chairmanship of Mr. Eugenio Moore, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Planning and Development, will meet at 2 p.m. today to discuss the issue of sponsorship with emphasis on the unsponsored steelbands.

Membership of the committee comprises:

Mr. Clinton Bernard, Deputy Solicitor General, as the representative from the Attorney General's Office;

Three representatives of Pan Trinbago — Mr. Peter Aleong, Public Relations Officer; Mr. Roy Augustus, President, and Mr. Ulric Rogers of T&TEC Motown in San Fernando;

A representative of the Tobago panmen's association — Mr. B. St. Clair of Arawak Our Boys;

Mr. Jonathan Scott of West Side Symphony, representing the unsponsored bands in Tobago;

A representative each from Central Harmonites, Couva, and Valley Harps, representing

the unsponsored bands in Trinidad;

Two private sector band-sponsors — the sponsors of Solo Harmonites and Catelli All Stars;

Two representatives from the business associations — Mr. I. Innis of the Federation of Chambers of Industry and Commerce and Mr. Richard Bradley, Vice-President of the Trinidad Manufacturers' Association.

Dr. Williams also announced that further discussions will be held between himself, Attorney General, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips and representatives of the steelbands, calysonianians and other persons to discuss broadly, the legal issues of patenting, copyright laws, etc.

expressed sincere thanks to the chairmen and members of the committees who had worked expeditiously on their assignments; representatives of the various steelbands who attended, and for their contributions, and the Press for its full coverage of the talks.

He said he was looking forward to continued collaboration with the steelband interests.

Mr. Roy Augustus, President of Pan Trinbago, described the Consultation as extremely informative, and hoped it would be a rewarding one to panmen.

● More Consultation stories on Page 8.

Reports accepted

This meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. on February 8 at White Hall.

The reports of three committees — music training, — employment opportunities and standardisation — were accepted by the Consultation, with the reservation that bands and other persons wishing to comment on proposals contained in the reports, should submit their comments by Tuesday next week.

These reports are to be dealt with by the Cabinet next Thursday, February 8.

The report of the committee on Standardisation was distributed at the close of the Consultation yesterday, and comments on this report will be received at White Hall up to February 15.

With respect to the report on music training for panmen, Dr Williams said the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Carlton Gomes, was directed to study the costing of the venture.

He would also study the question of having the steelband included on the school's curriculum, and to report to Cabinet next Thursday.

Members of the Consultation were given until February 15 to comment on the committee's report relating to standardisation, since it was a crucial question that produced diverse views from the floor on Tuesday.

Dr. Williams, as Chairman,