

PAN OVERHAUL LONG OVERDUE SAYS CULTURE MINISTER

By SEAN NERO

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WITHOUT expressing direct support for Pan Trinidad's plan to judge the preliminary round of Panorama 2001 in the pan yards of competing steelbands, Culture Minister Ganga Singh has hinted to the need for changes to the perennial contest as we know it.

Speaking at the Laventille Steelband Management Workshop held at the Glass Room Angostura Complex, Eastern Main Road, Laventille yesterday, Singh stated that reforms in the National Panorama competition and pan itself were long overdue.

"According to Professor Best the mandate is to convert pan yards into an economic centre zone and an education plant as well as a breeding ground for community and culture.

"This will realise the generation of a combination of jobs and incomes. It will also see pan triggering economic and industrial transformation along with social rehabilitation and civic welfare for the majority. By this we are not speaking about handouts for the needy. It is instead about the remuneration for work, value for expertise and art, payment for service. As Professor Best says the only ends to be achieved through out effort to develop pan are viability and prosperity," he said.

The Culture Minister cited effective

and efficient management and administration of events relating to the steelpan and by extension all indigenous cultural art forms as a matter of grave importance to Trinidad and Tobago.

He told the gathering that modern management skills as they relate to the areas of finance marketing, human resources and operations are not only applicable to the world of business and finance. *ML1040*

"They are also most relevant to the successful administration of the artistic affairs of our country. I think the workshop is timely. It follows on the momentum set by distinguished members of the pan fraternity such as Len "Boogsie" Sharpe who recently announced his programme

to promote activity year round at the Phase II Pan Groove pan yard.

"There was also a brainstorming session held in New York a few months ago on the future direction of pan in the globalising world order," the Minister continued. Once again the Culture Minister referred to a presentation made by Professor Lloyd Best at Pan Trinidad prize-giving ceremony for 2001 entitled a "Plan For Pan" in which he suggested way to take the steelband movement forward.

Singh is of the view that issues being discussed at the workshop and in the future must also include the existence of spare or idle capacity in the life of pan, during the post Carnival season.



CULTURE
MINISTER
GANGA SINGH