

# Public FORUM

# Thanks for pan theatre, Mr Singh

**THE EDITOR:** The executive and members of Southern Marines Steelband Foundation and the steelband loving citizens of Marabella and environs are requesting space in your widely read newspapers column to express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to our Parliamentary Representative for Pointe-a-Pierre and Minister of Local Government, the Hon. Dhanraj Singh (the Sheriff) for his prompt and positive response to our request for improved facilities—a proper pan theatre in order to better function and develop the

national instrument and the arts in the community of Marabella.

Through strong willed and dedicated leadership past and present, Southern Marines have been serving the community for more than 50 years, determined to keep the steelband culture alive and a significant number of young people in and around Marabella occupied—away from idleness.

We have been struggling under adverse conditions and for years appealing for assistance from the business community and government authorities to alleviate the adverse con-

ditions under which we were forced to function only because of our great love for this art form and its impact on the community. They all played games with us, some only responding with paltry aid around Carnival, when they can exploit to the fullest mileage for their contributions. To this, we are always thankful, for it kept our flag flying seasonally.

Nothing for the long term seems forthcoming. Just when it looked like the roof would literally fall on our heads and we would all drown in the waters that was literally rising at our feet, in rode the Sheriff (fizzing to our rescue

like Andrews Liver Salts) bringing new hope and dignity to Southern Marines and the people of Marabella, by causing to be built a pan theatre that we all can be proud of for the rest of our natural life, and for which we are prepared to defend and maintain with our natural life.

Although not yet completed, we feel a sense of pride, and are very grateful, for at this stage our feet are no longer in water and a secured roof is over our heads. For this we would also like to recognise and thank Mr Arnim Smith for his show of concern and contribution, Mr Lawford Duprey

and Petrotrin for their early input, Councillor Alvin Reeves for his moral support and looking forward to the Honourable Dhanraj Singh (the Sheriff) completing our pan theatre thereby giving greater life to his constituency.

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President**

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