

Manning: It's an abuse of power by AG

Former prime minister Patrick Manning is defending the integrity of Prof Brian Copeland on the G-pan and the Harmonic Percussive Instrument controversy.

In a release issued yesterday, the San Fernando West MP said Attorney General Anand Ramlogan was attempting to persecute Copeland, a patriotic citizen of T&T.

Manning said the Government and Ramlogan are clearly grasping at straws in their futile attempts

to prove their wild allegations of corruption against the last PNM administration.

"This is nothing short of terrorism by Anand Ramlogan who is seeking to frighten some citizens into submission. We must not allow this threat to our free and open society and our democratic way of life."

Manning urged citizens to stand up against this abuse of power.

"But this abuse of power must

not be countenanced."

Manning said the threats and civil suits by Ramlogan were to distract the attention of the population from the Government's incompetence and the stagnating economy.

Under the last administration, Manning said he attempted to further the growth of our national instrument by commissioning the creation of the G-pan by Copeland and University of the West Indies.

Manning said his government did not commission the development of the PHI pan, nor were they involved in its project.

"Indeed when the G-pan was commissioned the PHI pan was already in its final stages of development. Both projects continue to remain separate and apart," Manning explained.

Manning said whilst no one can claim ownership of the G-pan, "Copeland and others are enti-



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tled to market the PHI as they see fit since it is they who clearly developed this percussion instrument for the steelband".