



PRIME MINISTER, Dr. Eric Williams, yesterday morning opened a Government-sponsored five-week administration course for

steelbandmen at Chaguaramas Convention Centre. Pictures show Dr. Williams chatting with steelbands-

men after the formal opening of the course and some of the course participants at the opening session.

Photo by Herb Jones

PM to panmen: Full-time Carnival attitude would make T'dad richest place

REPRESENTATIVES from 29 steelbands throughout Trinidad and Tobago gathered at Chaguaramas yesterday, but not to beat pan.

They were on to something more serious than that — a course in business administration.

The panmen have downed their sticks for the next five weeks, to take in a series of lectures and discussions on the rudiments of small business operations.

The course — a direct result of the recent National Consultation on the Steelband Movement — was opened by Prime Minister, Dr. Eric Williams, at the Government Training Centre, Chaguaramas.

Having heard of the scope, objectives and operations of the Centre, which, so far, has trained 265 public officers for the year, Dr. Williams said he hoped the panmen would understand why he insisted that the course be held at the Centre.

"At all levels you have lack of training and inefficiency in management," Dr. Williams noted, "but the requirements

are the same, even if the job might be different," he added.

Dr. Williams hoped that, after all the noise made about having to take the course at Chaguaramas, the panmen would show, on behalf of the steelband movement, the same sort of dedication they showed for their music.

"If we can only get that sort of attitude which the population has for Carnival, if we can get that throughout the year, Trinidad and Tobago would be the richest country in the world," the Prime Minister told the panmen.

If they had not insisted that the course take place after Carnival, Dr. Williams told them, they would have started it before the celebrations.

He told them that during the course, they would get involved in the necessary business environment, and learn of business organisation, methods, practices, and business law, with particular reference of the laws of contract.

This was necessary, he emphasised, before they embarked on any small business. And

Dr. Williams cited as an example the taking over of the Zoo Pavilion.

After referring to the objectives of the course, Dr. Williams mentioned one of the issues which he found very disturbing: sponsors not living up to their contracts with panmen, and vice versa; since the sponsors, on the other hand, had also complained that the panmen were breaking contracts.

He said one notorious case, which was very, very embarrassing to the Government as a whole, was the case in which the sponsor — a Government corporation — had complained that the steelband was not keeping its part of the bargain.

FIRST OF FOUR

As they pursued this, their first such course in 1973, Dr. Williams hoped that the panmen would set an example not only to other steelbandmen, but undoubtedly to other groups in the community which would call on Government for assistance in the form of training, in preparation for the many small businesses they hoped to see operating.

This is the first of four courses scheduled for the year. The second begins July 1.

Mr. Roy Augustus, President of Pan Trinbago, expressed sincere thanks to the many people involved, in making the course possible.

Since the Consultation, Mr. Augustus noted that not only Government, but various other sectors, who had the ability to help, had been bending over backwards to ensure that the steelbandman got what he deserved.

He hoped "the boys would do justice to the course that has been prepared for them."

For the duration of the course, the 29 participants — each from a different band — will reside at Tembladora.



Objectives of the course

FOLLOWING are the objectives of the business administration course, embarked upon by 29 steelbandmen, yesterday, at the Government Training Centre, Chaguaramas:

to acquaint steelbandmen with the general features, institutions and practices of the local (including, if relevant, regional) business environment;

to assist steelbandmen to identify the special nature of the business relationships which should characterise the steelband as an artistic, commercial or industrial enterprise;

to impart to steelbandmen the basic principles governing business organisation and practice;

to develop in steelbandmen an awareness of the role of law and legal sanction in commercial and industrial activity, with special reference to contracts, agreements and contractual obligations.

Course director is Mr. C. A. P. St. Hill.