

Pan Trinbago to get site by end of year

BEFORE THE end of the year, the Ministry of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs is expected to hand over a site to Pan Trinbago for the Trinidad and Tobago Steelband Association.

Minister Muriel Donawa-Mc Davidson told this to a meeting of the Planning and Implementation Committee for the 25th anniversary of Independence celebrations, which met for the first time on Tuesday.

At the meeting the minister presented a number of ideas for the year-long celebration which began September 1 and will end on August 31 1987.

On the question of steelband, she also said that they hoped to begin work on the

steelband factory in time for the celebrations.

The committee itself is made up of some 24 members with Krishna Bahadoorsingh as its chairman and Arthur Lok Jack as vice chairman. Other members include Ramcharitar Rickhi, Hasely Crawford, Lystra Lewis, Father Garfield Rochard, Beverley Telemaque, Sandra Bernard-Bastien, as well as representatives of the various ministries, and the Tourist Board.

The minister said that the central point of the celebrations should be sporting festivals highlighting the sports for the different seasons. It is with this in mind that next month's visit of the Boca Junior team from Argentina is being planned, featuring Diego Maradona's younger brother, Hugo.

National Spirit

She said that the intention of the committee was to focus on a "truly national spirit" for the celebrations and with this in mind they will be attempting to include all types of organisations and individuals in the events.

They hope to have a number of song

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MINISTER of Sport, Culture and Youth Affairs Muriel Donawa-McDavidson (centre) discusses plans for the 25th anniversary of Independence. At left is Mrs Lystra Lewis with Major Horace Grannum, secretary to of the planning committee.

competitions including a calypso competition and one for "national songs". They also hope to have a roving Hall of Fame, moving the material around to the different villages around the country.

The minister also suggested that locals who have made it as international artistes or who have achieved some international fame, be brought back to their homeland for the celebrations.

The meeting also proposed that there should be a National Silver Jubilee Awards for persons over 20 working in whatever field, who had contributed something concrete to the society. This will most likely be done on a zonal basis.

Other suggestions included school essay competitions and exhibitions, drama productions, dance festivals, a nine day cultural programme during the week of Independence featuring steelband, calypso, dances and so on and ending with a fireworks display.

Women are also expected to play a great part in the celebrations with the

suggestion of a one-day exhibition and trade fair featuring women in the various professions along with lectures, demonstrations and sale of items produced by or oriented towards females.

Commemorative items will also be produced including stamps, coins, and various types of souvenirs. It was suggested that there be a commissioning of a female icon of democracy - a suggestion which caused the members some consternation until they were reminded that the Statue of Liberty was just such a thing.

The minister also said that she would be making an appeal to the media to play the anthem and our national songs more frequently on the radios.

A publications sub-committee is expected to be set up to highlight all the activities for the coming year and produce a calendar of the events. This will also be sent to nationals living abroad, giving them a chance to set-up their own events to coincide with the local celebrations.