

Fed-up Mayor wants Phase II out

A FED-UP Port-of-Spain Mayor Murchison Brown yesterday said that after "holding my hand" on forcing reigning Panorama champs Phase II Pan Groove to vacate its panyard from the present location at Number one Woodbrook Place, he may very well exercise his right to evict the band come Ash Wednesday.

Brown made the terse comment as he spoke to *Newsday* on the controversy surrounding the band's location of its panyard on the site of Home Construction Limited (HCL) Number One Woodbrook Place townhouse development. HCL purchased the site from the City Corporation.

And while HCL have spruced up the panyard at the back of the townhouse development site, Brown said his patience is wearing thin with the band's refusal to remove its panyard from the site.

Asked if sponsoring Phase II for Carnival 2007, was a mean of forcing the band to move from the site, HCL Group Marketing and Communications manager Lisa Ghany-Weekes said, "Sponsoring Phase II for Panorama is a Carnival commitment that ends Ash Wednesday."

She added that HCL was bearing all costs associated with getting the band fully prepared to defend its Panorama crown and as well, the company intends to have invited guests at the panyard early next week, hence the reason for the painting of the panyard and minor refurbishment work.

Asked what will be the company's position with the band after Carnival, Ghany-Weekes said they would be speaking with officials of the band for further involvement with them for the rest of the year.

With respect to the site and present construction of the townhouses, Ghany-Weekes stated, "Right now, Number One Woodbrook Place has no bearing on the panyard. Part of the original design had the panyard as part of the area of construction, but now construction is going on without it."

However, while HCL appears to be accommodating the band, Brown who promised to evict the band last Ash Wednesday, said yesterday, "I have been exercising a lot of tolerance but I can't do so for much longer. For two years now I have been holding my hand."

He told *Newsday* that he had been given written authorisation by the band's attorneys to do what he wishes with the site and "maybe right after Carnival, I may just do that."