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Business courses for panmen proposed by PM

PRIME MINISTER, Dr. Eric Williams, Chairman of the current three-day National Consultation on the Steelband, yesterday asked his Permanent Secretary, Mr. Dodderidge Alleyne, to start preparing a draft programme of courses in business management for steelbandsmen.

This programme, Dr. Williams indicated, will be discussed and worked out with the Executive of Pan Trinbago—the national body of the panmen.

Dr. Williams' request followed discussions at yesterday's post-lunch discussions of the Consultation.

Pan Trinbago and Government, Dr. Williams said, will discuss the question of a number of participants involved, duration and scope of the course; when it should be started—the first one to begin after the Carnival.

This would be subject to the availability or suitability of the Government Training Unit, located at Chaguaramas, or at some other convenient venue—probably the Community Education Centre at St. Ann's.

In the wake of complaints about the lack of adequate ac-

commodation for practice sessions, Dr. Williams advised all steelband representatives, whose bands had that problem to report to his Secretariat.

One of the officers, Mr. Tim Pow, he said, would put down in writing the name of their band, their location and, above all, whether there were suitable alternative sites which could be considered.

Dr. Williams recalled having personally encountered the problem during his 1970 visits to various panyards.

Certain arrangements which had started did not seem to work out well for some bands.

In relation to the emergence of new bands on the scene, Dr. Williams said Government did not want to interfere, and would leave this problem for the national body to sort out.

He also advised them against being apprehensive about their art form being copied outside, because, he said, no steelband in the world could sound like a Trinidad steelband.

"I think Trinidad and Tobago's supremacy in the steelband form would last for many years to come," Dr. Williams assured the panmen.

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