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## Panorama in South

# Regrello: It was my idea

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HOLDING the National Panorama final in San Fernando next year would mean bigger business, better security and the most successful finals ever, Junia Regrello, chairman of the San Fernando City Council's National Days, Festivals and Arts Committee, said yesterday.

Also it would be nothing new, since the finals were successfully held in San Fernando once before, he said.

Regrello said panmen should stop casting blame on Pan Trinbago president, Patrick Arnold, since it was he (Regrello) who had first proposed the shift in venue.

"When I heard that the (Queen's Park) Savannah was being demolished, I went to Arnold and suggested that we use Skinner Park, San Fernando, to host the event," he said.

Regrello said it was a means of making more money and a chance to create the most successful Panorama the nation has ever experienced.

"We hosted the Panorama finals once before, in 1976, and it was the greatest show we ever had," he said.

Arnold recently announced that because of the refurbishment of the QP Savannah, a proposal was made to host the finals at Skinner Park. However, the idea has met some opposition, including from Phase II Pan Groove leader, Len Boogsie Sharpe, who described it as "madness". Sharpe said as far as he was concerned, they were just carrying pan "deeper down the hole".

Yesterday, however, Regrello said a proposal has already been submitted to Pan Trinbago and it would soon be presented to all stakeholders.

"I have full support from San Fernando Mayor Kenneth Ferguson and the San Fernando City Council," he said. Regrello assured panmen that there were adequate facilities for rehearsals at Skinner Park.



Junia Regrello

"I am certain that there would be better facilities at Skinner Park than Panorama has had at the Savannah for the past 36 years," he said.

Transportation for steelbands to travel to and from the venue was estimated at \$200,000, far cheaper than for Port of Spain, Regrello said.

Steve Pascal, chairman of the TUCO South/Central Zone, meanwhile said that as long as there

was proper planning, Skinner Park could be the ideal venue for hosting the final next year.

"It is all in the planning. I feel we have the facilities here in San Fernando to stage a great Panorama finals. If it could happen in Port of Spain, it could happen here too. For too long southerners have been deprived of a good Panorama show," he said.

Pascal, who is known in the calypso world as Ras Kommanda, said Panorama finals in South would generate income for scores of southerners and attract many foreigners.

"But for this to be successful promoters first need to visit the site and plan the event properly. I would welcome Panorama in the South, because Port of Spain is not Trinidad," he said.