

Problem for panmen in finding homes

SEVERAL steelbands in Trinidad and Tobago are desperately looking for new headquarters. Others are seeking security of tenure on the sites they currently occupy.

All of the troubled bands have sought the assistance of their umbrella organisation, Pan Trinbago, which in response to their pleas is working feverishly on a draft plan for a pan theatre for presentation to the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Anthony Abdul Reid, Pan Trinbago's public relations officer, disclosed that within three weeks the organisation's idea of what a standard pan theatre should be like would be sent to the ministry.

Pan Trinbago was being assisted in the project by Mr. Clive Zanda who, in addition to being a respected pianist, is also an architect, he said.

Pan Trinbago's vice president, Nestor Sullivan, told of how permanent sites for steelbands was a perennial problem for the pan movement and the State was paying scant respect to calls to pay urgent attention to the subject.

"All Government is doing is bobbing and weaving," was how he put it.

DEMOLITION

Mr. Reid detailed some of the steelbands which were experiencing headquarters problems at present. They were Pan Beam of McBean Village, Calcutta No. 3 in Couva, Y de Lima Blue Diamonds of George Street, Port of Spain, Hillside Symphony of San Fernando and Siparia De Itones.

Others were Starland from Point Fortin, Tripolians from St. James, Simple Song from Arima, Klondykes from Tunapuna, West Side Steel Orchestra from Patience Hill, Tobago, Fedchem Synconites from South Trinidad, Lever Brothers Gay Flamingoes, Pan sound Steelband and Pan Beri from San Juan.

Mr. Reid exhibited correspondence from Pan Beam which he said dramatised the entire situation. The band's public relations officer, Dennis Lezama, in a letter to Pan

Trinbago revealed that on August 11 he was handed a notice from the Caroni Local Health Authority demanding that by Wednesday this week the band should explain why it was occupying its present premises.

If a satisfactory explanation was not received in writing by the deadline set, the LHA intended to demolish the steelband's headquarters and bill the band for the expense because the buildings were in contravention of the Public Health Ordinance.

In sending a copy of the notice to Pan Trinbago and begging for help, Mr. Lezama revealed that the band (formerly called Central Harmonites) had been on the same spot for 12 years and always believed it was on State land.

He indicated that the band had been subjected to police harassment each time it tried to put up a new structure on the land it occupied.

"We feel the time has come to make a positive move in obtaining the piece of land in order that we can work peacefully and progressively in our community," Mr. Lezama stressed in his communication with Pan Trinbago.

He detailed how the structure to accommodate four small co-operatives were currently going up on the plot of land where the band had its headquarters.

ANR to address Jaycees convention

MR. A.N.R. ROBINSON, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly will deliver the feature address at the opening of the 13th State Convention of the Jaycees of Trinidad and Tobago to be held at Mt. Irvine Bay Hotel tomorrow at 6.30 p.m.

Executive vice president of the West Indies Jaycees, Mr. Lincoln Kokoram, will deliver an address on Sunday during an "Award Luncheon".

Election of a new president and officers to serve on the 1982 board will also be held on Sunday, when the convention ends.