

Steelbandsmen discuss new constitution today

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The fractious and seemingly endless struggle of the country's steelbandsmen to organise themselves effectively should take a vital step at today's special convention of Pan Trinbago to be held at the PSA Centre, Long Circular.

The convention, called by Pan Trinbago's last meeting in April, will discuss two major issues: (1) The audited financial report which should have been submitted in April and (2) the proposed draft constitution for the organisation.

A wide cross-section of the steelband movement is expected to be present; each of the 120-member steelbands is entitled to be represented by two delegates and one observer.

Pan Trinbago's executive committee do not expect an easy meeting today. Certain pressing issues which developed since the last meeting may well be raised and affect discussions of the two agenda topics.

Trouble is expected to come from the eastern region where there is talk of boycotting Carnival and the Panorama competition. Steelbands of the east are also anxious to raise the question of employment.

But the executive sees Pan Trinbago as a largely cultural organisation devoted to the development of the steelband and not a trade union or part of the labour movement.

While the steelbands of the east have achieved a measure of unity and are helping new and unsponsored bands in their area, they are regarded in other steelband circles as too militant.

Failure to produce an audited financial report is felt to be the result of inexperience and lack of training in this area. To help correct this, Mr. Alva Rolston, accountant, will address the convention today on the keeping of proper accounts.

Education Officer, Mr. Bertie Fraser was confident that the convention would keep in mind the need to have a united pan movement and would see beyond the petty jealousies and quarrels that may come up.