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Ole time pan on streets a success

THE staging of the Ole time steelband preliminaries on the streets of Port of Spain achieved a measure of a success.

So said Owen Serrette, President of Pan Trinbago, at a post mortem of the Panorama competition, held yesterday at City Hall. The post mortem, which was due to start at 10 a.m., began half an hour late, with only about 30 representatives from steelbands in attendance. By noon, the gathering

numbered around 50.

Serrette, who chaired the meeting, said there were several objectives to staging the "pan around the neck" competition on the streets. These included shortening the length of the shows; encouraging greater people participation and bringing the steelbands back to the streets. He said that judging from the response of the panmen and the public, it was certainly a success, as all objectives were achieved.

The Best of the Rest

competition also came in for praise. Serrette described the concept of the competition as being good, but there was still a need to look at it to see how it could be improved.

The meeting did not go so smoothly in the beginning, as there was some confusion as to the objectives of the meeting. The panmen eventually got down to discussing their problems and recommendations.

Suggestions made by the various pan representatives included staging the ole time steelbands finals on the streets; tightening of the rules governing the competitions; staging an ole time steelband semi-finals; utilising the "pan around the neck" bands in the Junior Carnival parade; removing Panorama from Carnival and the creation of a summer festival; and putting the ole time steelband finals and the Best of the Rest competition at the same show.