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Pan Trinbago plans elaborate schedule for Steelband Week

PAN TRINBAGO—the official body of the steelbands — is seeking to have the entire nation thinking “steelband,” its importance as the country’s indigenous art form, and the contribution it has made, from April 23 to 28.

The organisation has drawn up a wide-ranging programme marking “Steelband Week — April 23 to 28.”

A feature of the week’s planned activities is a series of night and day steelband jamborees throughout the country, including Tobago; an exhibition of art work by steelbandmen, presentation of awards, concerts, a cocktail party, and dance.

It is also proposed to hold a Steelbands’ Flag Day—April 28, and launch a quarterly newsletter.

Spelling out the week’s programme yesterday at a Press conference at the Trinidad Manufacturers’ Association (TMA) Building, Maraval, Pan Trinbago officials—Mr. Damian Holder, general secretary, and Mr. Peter Aleong, Public Relations Officer—said this was all a direct result of the recent National Consultation on the Steelband Movement.

Mr. Holder explained that the week’s activities would begin on April 23—Easter Monday—and close on April 28.

“We believe that in the evolution of panology, steelbands have reached the stage where we can celebrate our

coming of age annually with a Steelband Week,” Mr. Holder told newsmen.

The week’s programme will be launched with steelband jamborees throughout the country.

There will be an inter-changing of bands. For example, some Port-of-Spain bands will perform in the central, southern and eastern regions, while bands from those areas will come to town to show off their dexterity on the pans.

The jamboree planned for San Fernando will take place at Skinner Park, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., under floodlights.

At Arima, the venue is the Velodrome. If lights are available, it will also take place from 2 p.m., to 10 p.m.

TOBAGO WEEK

However, in places where there are no floodlights — like Chaguanas — the jamboree planned for the central region, will take place at Chaguanas Market Square, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Also, because of the condition of King George V Park, with the floodlights down, the Port-of-Spain jamboree will also take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

However, a Port-of-Spain venue is still to be chosen.

Pan Trinbago, meantime, is discussing with the Tobago Steelbands’ Association, the possibility of also launching Steelband

Week in the sister island, with jamborees on April 23, and other events during the week.

On Tuesday, April 24, there will be an exhibition and cocktail party, 6.30 p.m. at the TMA Building. The exhibition will run from the Tuesday to Thursday, April 26.

The exhibition will be centred around the history of the steelband, depicting, as closely as possible, the development of the steelband movement over the years.

Other attractions will be art work done by panmen, depicting the evolution of the steelband.

Southern Panorama champions, Mosco Tiles Fonclaire, will be the feature band on display. Other bands will also perform on the two other days.

On April 25, there will be a public show at Port-of-Spain Town Hall Auditorium, entitled “Remember When.” There will also be the presentation of awards to people who have made outstanding contributions to the steelband movement.

Tripolians will be featured on the show, and possibly the Carlton Francis Dance Troupe and at least one calypsonian.

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Arawaks Dance Company has been approached to prepare a programme relating to the steelband movement. Tripolians will again be featured on the show.

On April 27, activities will shift to Queen's Hall, Port-of-Spain, where there will be a concert, entitled "The Evolution of the Man and his Culture." It will feature the Old Oak Casablanca Panyard Theatre Group, and one or two other steelbands.

The same night, the San Fernando region will hold a similar show, but will use the Southern Dance Company to depict the show in dance.

On the final day—April 28—Pan Trinbago plans to hold a "Steelbands' Flag Day" with the selling of flags — if the necessary permission is given.

It will also launch its quarterly newsletter, and hold steelband concerts in all of the main shopping centres — San Fernando, Chaguanas, Couva, Arima, Port-of-Spain.

The week's programme will wind up with a dance on the night of April 28 at the Port-of-Spain Lions' Den, featuring the Police Band and this year's Panorama Champions — Catelli Trinidad All Stars.