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Panorama '76 seems headed for court

PANORAMA '76 seems headed for the High Courts!

Threats were being hurled yesterday that an injunction would be filed to restrain steelbandmen from taking part in the preliminaries of the Carnival spectacular, scheduled to take place for the first time ever, in San Fernando.

On Tuesday, South Trinidad panmen met at the San Fernando Town Hall to discuss the latest moves by some steelbands in the North which are objecting to the selection of Skinner Park,

San Fernando, as the venue for the competition.

Traditionally, the big preliminaries are held in Port of Spain at the Queen's Park Savannah.

Under the new plan, it is to take place in San Fernando with the finals being held in Port of Spain as usual.

Pan Trinbago, the organisation representing steelbands in the country, has already sanctioned the new plan which calls for holding the preliminaries February 22.

Last Sunday, a group

calling itself Panorama Interested Committee decided it would not take part if the preliminaries were held in San Fernando.

The committee is claiming that it would be too costly for all of the North steelbands to journey to San Fernando and that transport would pose a problem. It also claimed that Pan Trinbago was only interested in how much money it could make at Skinner Park.

At Tuesday's meeting, 37 band captains and representatives of 20 bands

including Steve Achaiba, captain of last year's champion, Maritime Life Hatters, and Milton Austin, of Stag Fonclaire, were present.

And several of those who attended spoke of high court injunction to stop Panorama '76.

They said they were unhappy with the sentiments of their northern counterparts and although they have not taken a formal decision to back Pan Trinbago's new plan, the con-

census was that they would go it alone if necessary.

Mr Roy Augustus, chairman of the Panorama planning committee, said the committee was taking a middle course in the controversy.

He disclosed that an open meeting would be held at the St Paul's Street Community Centre, East Dry River, Port of Spain, Saturday where the issue would be raised. He said he hoped it would be settled once and for all.

San Fernando panmen are likely to boycott the meeting