

carnival pelau

with VALENTINO SI

Pan Trinbago — Serrette style

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PAN TRINBAGO'S new President Owen Serrette is getting ready to stamp his own style and leadership personality into the national pan movement.

Serrette, 48, and the father of four kids told the *Sunday Guardian* that he would be "looking to be strong in my new post" but will also operate in a fair manner that will ensure respectability for the organisation.

The soft-spoken President said that he was very happy to have former President Armin Smith around in his capacity as adviser to the movement.

Serrette explained that everyone had strengths and weaknesses and he would be calling on Smith's strengths to ensure a smooth transformation to his new post.

Present Position

He said that Smith, because of his own style, had done a lot to bring Pan Trinbago to its present position but he was not going to adopt that style of leadership. "I will be my own person," he said.

He explained: "I am a simple man, easy to get along with and I have total trust in people. I believe all people are honest and until such time as they prove me wrong, I will continue to believe that. This is the type of philosophy I will be using in dealing with pan."

Serrette who works in the Organisation and Management Division of the Prime Minister's Office said one of the first moves which the movement had to make was the putting together of a national policy.

"Over the years, the Executive got bogged down in the everyday running of the affairs of panman. I don't think that is our role. We have to set the pace by providing a policy under which panmen can operate."

"We need to decentralise a lot more to ensure that the National Executive is motivated to do the work on a national basis and not be made to hear complaints and trivialities from every panman."

Plans For Panorama

To this end, Serrette explained that efforts will be made to decentralise. "We already have a framework for this process. There are zones and people who are responsible for running these zones. They will have to do their work now and we will only get involved when it becomes too big for the zones themselves to handle."

He said that plans for Panorama 1989 were already well underway and that Pan Trinbago was very concerned with the length of time the shows ran.

"We will be looking to address this problem and



OWEN SERRETTE
looking to be strong

provide penalties for bands which overstay their time on stage. These penalties will be in the form of fines and the possible taking away of part of the appearance fees, but not musical points. That is one area we will not interfere with."

Serrette said, quite often the panmen were not the ones to be blamed when the competition ran late. "Sometimes the fault was Pan Trinbago's; like a judge arriving late or something, but even this we are making every effort to ensure does not occur this year."

He further revealed that the body hopes to cut 300 minutes of the time of all its shows, "and if we do that we would have accomplished something."

He said the pan-around-the-neck competition will have its own place this season. "Normally they were part of the South/Central show and caused the show to go very late the next morning, but they will be having their own show on Friday January 20 on the streets of

Port of Spain.

Serrette also revealed that a competition will be held for those bands which fail to secure a place in the second round of competition.

"We are calling it the Best Of The Rest but the details have not been worked out although a sponsor is already there for the competition."

Very Costly

Serrette is hoping that during his reign pan will finally be standardised and also make its way onto the school's curriculum.

"I think it is important that this happens because transporting pans from one country to another is a very costly thing and if we really intend to make the instrument international, standardisation is a must."

"We also need to put on all pans leaving T&T the trade mark "Made In Trinidad And Tobago" so that people will know the difference between what we produce and what other countries offer."

The new pan boss said that efforts have to be made to ensure that the movement's office was given a facelift and that proper procedures and system be put in place.

"Because of the way things were done in the past, many things which might have appeared as minor were not given the type of treatment they deserve, but this will have to change. We will be calling on the skills of the pan-body to give voluntary help in setting up proper systems so that proper records can be maintained."

Serrette said he is also hoping that Pan Trinbago can become self-sufficient.

Whole Country

"We will be introducing a number of monthly concerts and other activities aimed at helping ourselves and also providing something for many of our members who might be unemployed."

"I am hoping that the movement can set up co-operatives to help itself. We can manufacture pan sticks and souvenir items and all the items relating to pan."

The man who is also manager of Solo Harmonites said that he will be looking to the whole country to respect the movement and not react as in the past with "Pan Trinbago ...AGAIN?"

"I want all panmen to have a say in what happens with pan because this is a very democratic organisation. That is not to say that I will abdicate my responsibilities as President but my doors will always be open to anyone interested in helping pan. That you can be sure of."