

Govt setting up chrome pan factory

SEAN NERO

THE GOVERNMENT has outlined a package of products which it believes will create and sustain a viable steelband industry in T&T, says Culture Minister Joan Yuille-Williams.

Speaking during the PCS Nitrogen Starlift's golden jubilee celebration and awards ceremony at its headquarters on Mucurapo Road, St James, on Friday night, Yuille-Williams told steelbandmen that educating, training and employing this category of entertainers was high on the Government's list of priorities.

And to start things, Pan Trinbago would get its long-awaited chrome factory. The minister said:

"When steelpan instruments are made and tuned, they have to be chromed. Once again, the Government is prepared to come forward, this time with the establishment of a chrome factory."



Culture and Gender Affairs Minister JOAN YUILLE-WILLIAMS, right, presents a golden jubilee award to ESTHER DALTON.

"A building to house the factory has already been identified and a budget allocation to get the project off the ground has been approved by Cabinet."

Yuille-Williams did not reveal its cost.

She said while setting up of the chrome factory takes shape,

complementary components for this indigenous art form must be effected.

"The ministry sponsored a pan construction and tuning programme, from which 100 successful participants graduated."

"In fact, the first project took place at the home of Starlift. Due to the success of that programme, others followed."

"And come January, 2007, another group of pannists, totalling 100,

will begin training in the art of pan construction."

"It is important to train pan tuners for the purpose of keeping the tradition alive, and the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs will continue to play its role to achieve this feat."

The minister added that while a new breed of pan technicians was being cultivated, the State would continue its National Pan



Starlift veteran PERCY PITT receives his accolade from Councillor CYNTHIA PIPER.

PHOTOS: SEAN NERO

Camp—held during the August vacation.

This served as a nursery and had so far introduced 300 youths to careers related to the national musical instrument.

"The establishment of the National Steel Symphony is another way in which the ministry, and by extension, government, is helping to provide careers for music-literate pannists."

"Interviews for the National Steel Symphony are completed and 75 successful candidates are engaged in assessment, before the launch of the music outfit next year."

THE AWARDEES

- Louise "Rosebud" Arjoon
- David Cadjoe
- Gerard Clarke
- Esther Dalton
- George Dottin
- Rawle Dove
- Carlton Drayton (posthumous)
- Clyde Hinds
- Eastlyn Hinds
- Norman Hunte
- Roland Inniss
- Alva Maund
- Dwight Phillips
- Winston "Bee" Phillips
- Mark Seales
- Michael Sherriff (posthumous)
- Screen Stars (Lila Williams)
- Percy Pitt
- Neville Whittle



Above: SHENELLE BOYCE, a member of Starlift's Youth Steel Orchestra, presents an award to BARRY MANNETTE, captain of the senior band and arranger for the juniors.