

'Boogsie' gets Tobago house for steelpan work

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LEN "Boogsie" Sharpe will get a house from the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) for his contribution to pan in Tobago.

The announcement was made at Friday's opening of the 1999 Heritage Festival at the Shaw Park Cultural Centre.

The Woodbrook pannist/composer/arranger was one of five individuals who were honoured and rewarded by the Festival Committee for contributions in their respective fields of endeavour.

The others are Heritage Festival founder Dr JD Elder, Manchester United star footballer Dwight Yorke and calypsonians Shadow and Rose.

An elated and visibly

emotional Sharpe was almost speechless after the announcement was made. Sharpe said when he was invited to attend the opening ceremony, he assumed that it was to receive an award or perform.

He said the news was one of the biggest surprises of his career and that he is looking forward to spending a lot more time in the sister isle.

A mammoth audience attended the Festival opening at Shaw Park Cultural Complex.

With cultural performances starting promptly at 8.30 pm with the arrival of Prime Minister Basdeo Panday, the programme ran smoothly, lasting just over three hours.

In his address to

officially open the Festival, Panday said he was impressed by the efforts in staging the Festival and asked the THA to make the Committee available to

the Central Government to help produce the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition.

He also announced that Charlotteville has been made a statutory port of

entry to the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago. He also suggested that the National Broadcasting Network (NBN) should have been more involved in the Festival.



TOBAGO House of Assembly's Chief Secretary Hochoy Charles, right, seems pleased to be seated next to Prime Minister Basdeo Panday at the opening of the Tobago Heritage Festival at the Shaw Park Cultural Centre on Friday night. Photo by LESTER FORDE.