

Pan Trinbago gets Carnival \$\$

PAN TRINBAGO president Patrick Arnold yesterday confirmed that his organisation had received its first financial assistance from the Ministry of Culture via the National Carnival Commission (NCC), for steelbands both conventional and single pan bands to ready themselves for the National Panorama competitions.

Preliminary judging of these bands begin January 25, at pan yards in all regions. Judges will continue with panyard judging up to February 1, of some 74 conventional bands and 65 single pan bands, before the semi-finals which this year takes place at the South Western end

of the Queen's Park Savannah. At the semi-finals, patrons will hear 14 conventional bands in each of the categories with eight each going on to the Finals at Skinner's Park in San Fernando. Arnold declined to state how much funds were released to the organisation.

Renwick Brown of the National Carnival Bands Association (NCBA) stated though that their initial payment of a subvention was made earlier this year that will be used as an administrative cost.

A Pan Trinbago official said, that with all the changes, they will have to send proposals to the Ministry for the things they want. He added that the bulk of

the payment will come with the actual production of Carnival and they expect to get payments as they go along during the season. He too didn't want to give a figure on the early release.

This year NCBA shows will be held at the Jean Pierre Complex which has to be adjusted and on the streets of Port-of-Spain.

However when contacted yesterday the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians Organisation president, Michael Leggerton told *Newsday* that they were still working on putting things in their right perspective and that he expects they will receive their customary \$5M.