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Tuco secures home for aged calypsonians

By TERRY JOSEPH

A PROPERTY worth \$80,000, situated at 7 North Bank Road in Centeno has been handed over to the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians

Organisation (Tuco) for use as a geriatric care home for aged calypsonians.

Instruments of occupation were on Monday handed over to Tuco president Seadly "Penguin"

Joseph at a simple ceremony at the Twin Towers office of Public Administration Minister, Wade Mark.

The building, which will accommodate six persons, is yet to be

refurbished by the National Insurance Property Development Company (Nipdec), but according to a promise from the Ministry, will be ready for occupation by next June. At the han-

dover, Joseph said that a shift system will be in operation to ensure round the clock health care to dispossessed calypsonians.

The facility will offer medical attention, meals

and other support systems as may be required by inmates.

The facility has been released to Tuco on a long-term lease, the first ten years of which will be at absolutely no cost to the organisation, which will thereafter pay a peppercorn rate annually.

It is not the first such concession that government has accorded calypso. Last May, veteran calypsonian Pretender was relieved of the requirement to pay rent for his flat.

At Monday's ceremony, Joseph took the opportunity to announce other social and welfare plans for calypsonians, packaged as a "family legacy". Tuco's

plans include the provision of a health plan by January 1, insurance for singer's voices and if all else fails, a funeral plan that would reduce the burden on the families of affected calypsonians.

The organisation will pay for six funerals in the first year of that plan's operation. No information on how it will select candidates for eligibility was forthcoming.