

Trincity home for Pan Trinbago

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PRIME Minister Basdeo Panday is expected to give Pan Trinbago a parcel of land on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway near Trincity on November 17.

Pan Trinbago secretary Richard Forteau said yesterday the eight-acre parcel of land is to be used for building the headquarters of the umbrella steelband organisation.

He said, "We will finally have a place that the panmen can say is their home and where we can do the things we need to do for the development of the pan and panmen."

Pan Trinbago is now expected to begin preparing the land for the handing-over ceremony, Forteau said

"We might have some steel orchestras playing on the grounds on the day of the ceremony as well as other activities," he said.

The Trincity land gift comes after years of attempts by the steelband organisation to get ownership of a parcel of land at Williams Bay, Chaguaramas.

In 1999, Pan Trinbago drew up plans to build a \$13 million cultural complex on the land which it claimed was promised to the organisation by Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams in the 1960s and by Prime Minister Basdeo Panday in 1999.

Forteau said yesterday a general meeting of Pan Trinbago members is scheduled for November 18 at a venue yet to be decided.

He said the meeting is to decide what form Panorama 2002 will take.

"We did not deal with Panorama at yesterday's (Sunday's) Annual General Meeting, since the Pan Trinbago constitution dictates that only specific items be addressed at this meeting.

"On November 18, we will be able to spend the entire day working out the details for Panorama 2002," Forteau said.

The Pan Trinbago central executive has proposed that next year's Panorama preliminary competitions be held at the panyards of individual steelbands over a period of time.

The membership of the group's northern region has rejected this, but the central executive wants the plan to be given a try.

- Reporting by
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