

Newspaper 24/11/01
pgs 26

ML1042

Pan Trinbago gets \$8.5 million property

THE GOVERNMENT of Trinidad and Tobago has envisioned the development of a new commercial and industrial city centered around the recently constructed Piarco International Airport. Prime Minister Basdeo Panday revealed this on Saturday as he handed over the deed to eight acres of land, to Pan Trinbago for the construction of its headquarters. The property, valued at \$8.5 million, is located on at the Orange Grove Estate, along the Churchill Roosevelt Highway, in Trincity.

The Prime Minister, in one of his shortest addresses to date, told the crowd, made up of prominent members of the Steelpan fraternity, that the land they had received was in a prime location in close proximity to the planned city. In this light he encouraged pan men to "use their prime property well."

Furthermore, Prime Minister Panday maintained

he hoped that one of the uses of the property would be the year round performance of pan. "People from all around the world must come here if they want to hear genuine steel pan music," he told them.

He stated the Government intended to do all it could to "meaningfully assist in propelling pan to the heights to which the steelpan can only aspire". He promised if they were able to draw up the plans for the headquarters, he would supply the money for its construction.

The Prime Minister further encouraged pan men to be "masters of their own fate." He told them this "movement of triumph for the pan movement is a movement of triumph for the human spirit."

At the end of his address, Prime Minister Panday noted with a smile it was no coincidence that his name was "Pan day."



LAND FOR PAN:
Harmonites steel orchestra entertains the crowd during the ceremony. Pictured in the background is the \$8.5 million piece of land handed over to Pan Trinbago yesterday.
PHOTO BY
AZLAN
MOHAMMED