

## G-PAN CONTROVERSY

# Copeland consults his lawyers over AG's claims

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Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof Brian Copeland says he has to consult his attorneys and familiarise himself with the details surrounding allegations he sold steel pans for personal gain.

Attorney General Anand Ramlogan said Friday, the Government proposes taking legal action against G-pan inventor Prof Copeland and three associates for profiting from sales of the G-pan while such intellectual rights are vested in the Government.

Former government minister, Junia Regrello, along with Copeland, were named as a director in the Panadigm Innovation Ltd Company (PIL) which was incorporated to facilitate the commercialisation of the G-pan.

He made these comments at a news conference at his office on Friday.

Copeland said: "I am now going to see my lawyers. I have not even seen the paperwork. I don't know the details of the allegation. The newspapers have it. I don't have it. Right now, I have to defend myself."

Copeland has the distinction of being the first recipient of the Order of the Republic of T&T which was conferred at the Independence Awards, in 2008.

Efforts to contact Regrello proved futile.

Efforts to contact Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism Winston Peters also drew a blank.

### UWI in the dark

Meanwhile, St Augustine Campus principal Prof Clement Sankat maintained he, too, was unaware of the details surrounding the

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allegation.

Sankat said: "I am not seized of the facts and the implications of it as it pertains to research, development and intellectual property rights and ownership of rights. It is a complex issue. I don't know the facts and the impacts of the facts."

Sankat said he spoke to Copeland, but added: "Until he (Copeland) knows what transpires, he can't comment."

Describing himself as Copeland's "right-hand man" Deputy Dean Prof Clem Imbert said he, too, was unaware of the details.

He said: "I am not connected with the company. I don't know anything about it. As far as it is concerned, it is what I read in the newspaper. From what I read it is some sort of judicial matter. It is a sensitive thing. I don't know all the facts."

But he said he understood the crux of the matter revolved around The PHI (percussion harmonic instrument).

Imbert boasted he brought his metallurgical skills to the table on the project.

He said: "I had a lot of input into the metallurgy. I worked on the initial stages of the G-pan. I was with him all the way on that."

Another academic said the recent development should be viewed as "a test case in the area of intellectual property ownership in an environment where research is sponsored by government or the private sector."