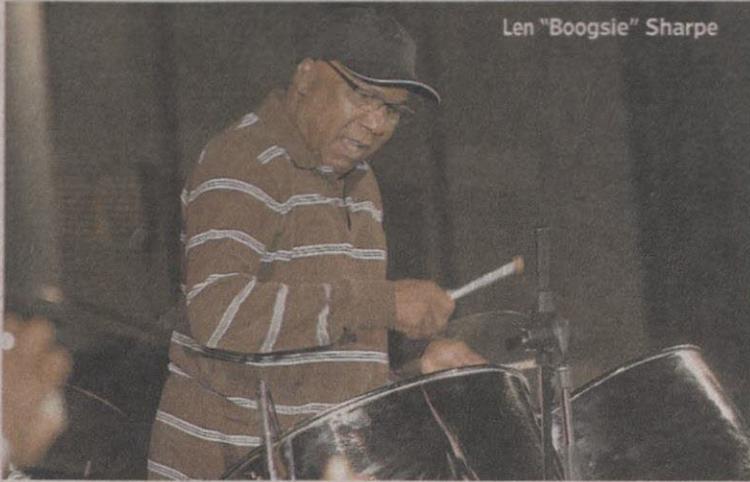


Len "Boogsie" Sharpe



We have learned some stinging lessons about ownership, copyrighting and manufacturing the instrument, and the fact that reactionary Third World thinking allows these proactive First World countries to remain one step ahead of us.

Saving Pan Trinbago

D ANTHONY BLACKMAN

Previously, Len "Boogsie" Sharpe pronounced pan as dead in defiance of the Patrick Arnold administration. Forensically, the Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism Winston "Gypsy" Peters in his autopsy, cited Panorama as the cause of death for the steelpan, and advised that its scope should be broadened.

The new Diaz administration is under intense fire, they have been chided for maladministration, business failure and corruption, are facing budget and stipend cuts, and double jeopardy from Sharpe's Panorama 2K11 offering,

Do Something for Pan. One would hope that this bouffing from the minister would be accepted as an obstacle, altered to a stepping stone, and dealt with as a challenge instead of an attack on the pan body or disrespect for the national instrument. This of course entails stepping up to the plate and totally turning things around for Panorama and pan.

Let's look at the challenges of turning things around, and broadening the scope—The steelband movement has been organised since 1950, and the original bargaining body was the National Association of Trinidad and Tobago Steelbandsmen (NATTS).

Pan Trinbago, its successor, was formed in 1971 as a cultural organisation, which formerly operated and was registered as a Union representing the interest of steelpan players, and later incorporated by Act of Parliament 5 of 1986.

One of Pan Trinbago's major objectives is—to maintain strong ties and work closely with Musicians' Unions in countries wherever steelpan players perform, so that any industrial and/or labour disputes involving steelbandsmen could be properly handled.

Therefore, is Pan Trinbago better off being a trade union/bargaining body for panists, or a limited liability company at the helm of the global pan fraternity?

The overview link of the Pan Trinbago Inc Web site brags of several meaningful objectives, and the potent tag line "World Governing Body for Steelpan" suggests to most, an organisation in full control and successfully managing the business of pan.

The track record and balance sheet to date do not reflect a body or enterprise capable of delivering the stuff a world governing body is made of. Maybe the thinking, structure, management and mission of a successful organisation such as Fifa is something Pan Trinbago needs to adopt or at least seriously consider

The International Federation of Association Football commonly known by the acronym Fifa is the international governing body of association football, futsal and beach football. Fifa has 208 member associations, and is an association established under the Laws of Switzerland, with headquarters in Zurich. Fifa is responsible for the organ-

isation and governance of football's major international tournaments, most notably the Fifa World Cup held since 1930.

Fifa's supreme body is the Fifa Congress, an assembly made up of representatives from each affiliated member association.

Congress elects the President of Fifa, its General Secretary and the other members of Fifa's Executive Committee—The President and General Secretary are the main officeholders of Fifa, and are in charge of its daily administration carried out by the General Secretariat, with its staff of approximately 280 members—Fifa boasts of a Brand and a Commitment which clearly demonstrates that it is in control of everything there is about football, being, its youth and overall development, the game, the rules, the tournaments, and the revenue generated as a result, from advertising, TV and several other rights, gates and so on.

They have created an independent financial powerhouse which literally has governments on bended knees for a piece of their pie. We however, are powerless and cap in hand for the government's crumbs. (Courtesy Wikipedia)

At every Carnival regionally and internationally there is a Panorama competition hosted by an association/organisation. Turn Panorama into the biggest steelband tournament, and therein lies the foundation for a Federation of International Steelpan Associations, set up to pull the global associations together, zone them, and host for example world panorama, music festival and pan in the 21st century finals, at differing international venues.

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To add insult to injury, take note of the tone of these excerpts from a European organisation on When Steel Talks, January 8, 2011— "The 2nd International Steelband Festival in the Netherlands."—Dear steelband members and steel drum players, at the 25th of June we organise with the local government of Hellevoetsluis and Multi Percussion Hellevoetsluis the second International Steelband Festival in the Netherlands. Steelbands from the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, the UK, France and Aruba will perform at our Festival.

"We register at Guinness World Records to see if we can make a new record with Worlds largest Steel Drum Play Inn."

NB: No mention of bands from Trinidad, the so called Mecca of the Steelband.

While we sleep and take issue with disrespect for pan, entrepreneurs in Holland are swiftly heading the Fifa way. Therefore it may be a good idea to negotiate with the PP for assistance in putting together "The Federation of International Steelpan Associations," instead of a paltry \$1,000 per pan player.

Youth Consultations

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Iere High School, Siparia
Saturday 22nd January • 1pm-5:30pm

The Honourable Ms. Stacy Roonarine, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

Mr. Navin Boodai, Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education

Representative from the Ministry of Food Production Land and Marine Affairs

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