

Govt to employ 2 top pan tuners

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Staff Reporter

CABINET yesterday agreed to implement some of the recommendations of the recent National Consultation on the Steelband, to promote steelbandmen.

Recommendations agreed to included providing permanent Government employment of two top local pan tuners; the organising of special courses to train steelbandmen in music; organising a residential course in business administration for the panmen, and conducting of a survey immediately to determine the number of persons engaged in the steelband movement.

Following an all-day sitting of the Cabinet yesterday, the following decisions arrived at were released from Whitehall:

Negotiations are to be opened with two top local pan tuners with a view to offering them permanent employment with the Government.

The tuners are to undertake assignments based on the report of a committee set up at the Consultation which agreed that the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), or some such agency undertake immediately, a feasibility study on the establishment of a pan-manufacturing factory.

The tuners' assignment would be —

1: To assist the University of the West Indies (whose Faculty of Engineering submitted a paper on the Role of the Research Programme in

the Development of the Steelband Industry) in the Research Programme and the IDC with the feasibility study of the proposed pan factory;

2: To conduct training courses for would-be tuners;

3: To form part of the technical staff of the proposed pan factory.

Researchers at the UWI Faculty of Engineering, were concerned with the following:

- Choice of materials and material treatment;
- Optimisation of the geometry of the playing surface;
- Development of the acoustic design of the pan.

Dr. Kenneth Julien, chairman of the Committee, told the Consultation that further work in these areas was only possible through a research programme in which tuners and band leaders would play an active role. Without them, he said, the Faculty of Engineering could not proceed any further with its work on the research and development of the steelband instrument.

In agreeing to run the special courses for panmen in music, Cabinet said a committee will be appointed to consider the question or curricula and syllabuses. Also the identification of appropriate non-residential centres for the holding of courses in the five regional areas — north, south, east and central Trinidad, and Tobago.

The committee will also consider what equipment would be required for the conduct of the courses.



DR. KENNETH JULIEN

... headed Committee.

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Survey to be conducted on steelband personnel

GOVERNMENT, in collaboration with Pan Trinbago, will conduct immediately a survey to determine the number of persons engaged in the steelband movement.

The Minister of Labour and

Social Security has already started preparatory work.

A questionnaire is to be circulated to each band and, in an effort to expedite action, Government is to employ suitable steelbandmen in specific geographical areas to move around to assist the bands with the questionnaire.

Meantime, Pan Trinbago has held a meeting with the Co-operatives Division of the Ministry on the subject of the formation of a panmen's co-operative to undertake activities for the development of the steelband.

The panmen's body has also discussed other types of legitimate commercial and social activities making full use of Government's incentives in regard to co-operatives.

Some band sponsors have promised the Ministry of Labour that they would give special attention to members of the bands they sponsor in the provision of employment and training opportunities.

The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has promised to consider the matter and to take appropriate action.

Meanwhile, discussions have been held between Pan Trinbago and a representative of the Government's Chief Personnel Office on the question of arrangements for continued discussions on the subject.

A Standing Committee of representatives from appropriate Government Ministries and departments and Pan Trinbago has been set up to continue these discussions.