



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

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Media Release

Minister Mitchell Distributes over \$1.7 Million in Grants to Un-sponsored Steelbands and \$4 Million in Remittances to Steelpan Players

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts held a cheque distribution ceremony on Thursday at the National Academy for the Performing Arts. Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts distributed \$1,755,000 in cheques to 145 un-sponsored Steelbands and \$4,000,000 to Pan Trinbago to pay remittances to an estimated 8,000 Steelpan Players for Carnival 2024.

Cabinet approved the payment of grants in recognition of the significant role that Steelbands play in the cultural and social fabric and development here in Trinidad and Tobago.

In his remarks, Minister Mitchell described the steelpan as “the symbol of excellence that was developed right here in Trinidad and Tobago”. He also thanked Pan Trinbago for their role in ensuring that the Steelpan continues to develop and get the respect that it deserves in all sectors of the economy. The Minister commended the Steelpan fraternity for their role in engaging the youth and building camaraderie across communities. He concluded with an invitation to Corporate Trinidad and Tobago to invest in Steelpan development, highlighting the many incentives that the Government has in place for those who support Steelpan.

These sentiments were echoed by President of Pan Trinbago, Mrs. Beverly Ramsey-Moore who emphasised the need for further partnership from the private sector in supporting the work of Steelbands. She expressed her gratitude to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts for his

investment in the Steelpan fraternity and affirmed the importance of grants like these to offset the costs of participation in Panorama. She also commended the Ministry's recognition of the valuable contribution that bandleaders have been making to society and acknowledged her anticipation of further partnerships with the Ministry in 2024 in upgrading pan yards.

Payment of grants to unsponsored Steelbands for Carnival 2024

In recent years, the Government has provided financial support to facilitate the participation of unsponsored Steelbands in national Carnival celebrations. The allocation of these funds are utilized for essential preparatory activities such as transportation, blending, chroming and repairing instruments.

Grants were distributed in the sum of \$15,000 in support of Conventional Bands and \$7,500 in support of Single Pan Bands.

Remittances to Steelpan Players for Panorama 2024

Panorama is a fundamental part of the national Carnival celebrations and is a significant ingredient into our Carnival product. In 1998, the Government introduced a payment of a grant to Steelpan player (Remittances) that participate in the annual Panorama competitions.

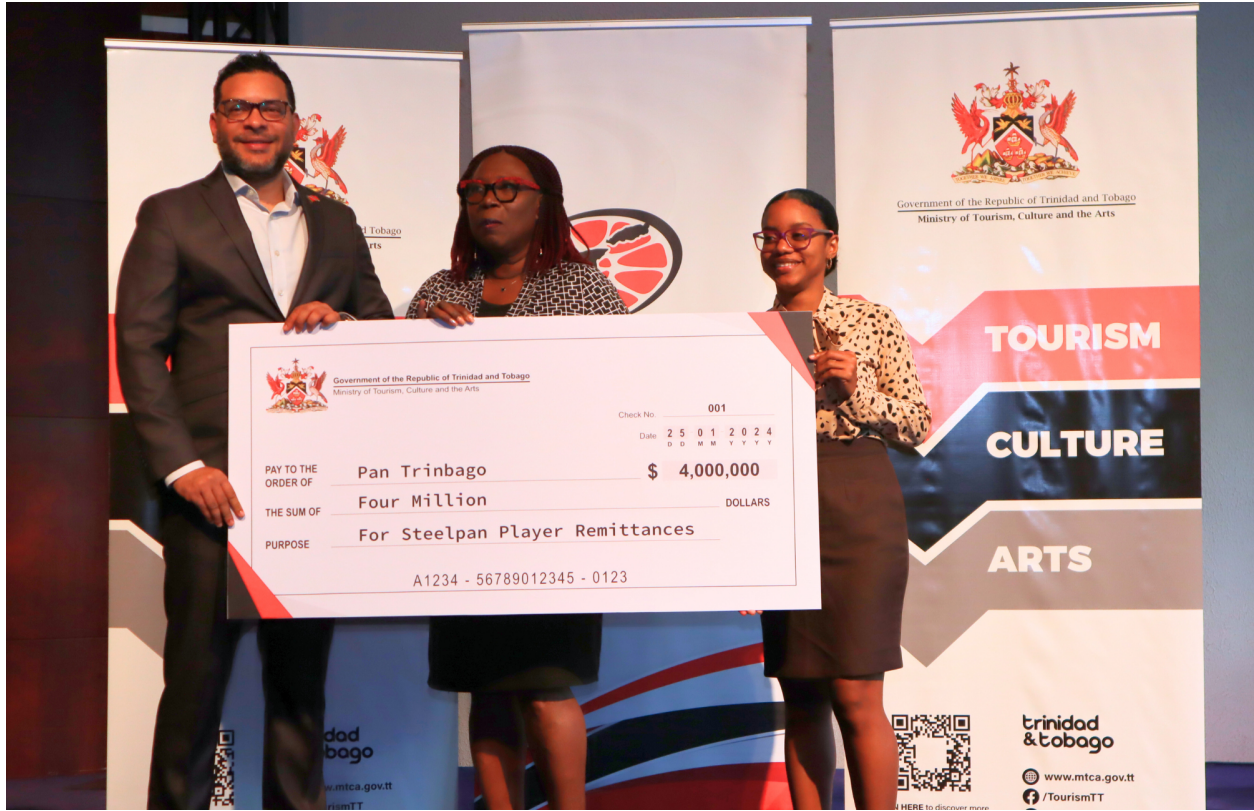
To qualify, Steelpan players must meet the following criteria:

- Be citizen of Trinidad and Tobago
- A holder of a national identification card or other legitimate identification
- A registered player with an eligible Steelband
- Must perform with a band up to the preliminary round of Panorama.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts remains committed to championing these measures that are aimed at providing opportunities for human and social development, as well as engendering pride and ownership through greater participation in the Steelband community.



Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts; and Mr. Videsh Maharaj, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts joining Mrs. Beverly Ramsey-Moore, President of Pan Trinbago, and the Bandleaders as they collect their grants and remittances.



Mrs. Beverly Ramsey-Moore, President of Pan Trinbago receiving \$4 million dollar remittance cheque on behalf of steelpan players.

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