



**AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**CONSTRUCTION OF PAN TRINBAGO'S HEADQUARTERS ON WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN**

Cabinet has agreed inter alia to the construction of Pan Trinbago's Headquarters at *the General Post Office site on Wrightson Road, Port of Spain*, currently occupied by the Surveys and Mapping Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley confirmed these construction plans as he delivered opening remarks at the Orchestra Finals Competition of Pan Trinbago's "Trinidad and Tobago National Steelband Music Festival 2024 – Steelpan is More Beautiful" which was held on Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Jean Pierre Complex. The Prime Minister stated, "*Today, I can tell you that the Government and Pan Trinbago have agreed to a design for a Headquarters building worthy of its location in the City of Port of Spain, on Wrightson Road, on the old Post Office site. And very soon when you see the architects rendering of what that building would look like, I am guaranteeing you, that you will be proud because like everything else, it will look somewhere like a pan and in the City of Port of Spain, the only City in the world that will have a building like that, Pan Trinbago and the Government will share that building, with Pan Trinbago using its share of the building to support its financial ventures and be in a location worthy of the home where Steelband was invented.*"

The proposed Headquarters will be a six (6) storey Class-A mixed-use building featuring but not limited to, Office Spaces for Pan Trinbago, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, Tourism Trinidad Limited, and the National Carnival Commission; a Theatre/Auditorium with 300 seats for performances and recordings; a Pan Museum & Interpretive Centre; Conference Rooms and Meeting Rooms; Rooftop Entertainment Area; Gift Shop; Cafeteria; and Parking Facilities.

It is proposed that State entities being housed at the building will *not* be required to pay rent to Pan Trinbago for a period of up to *fifty (50) years*, but rather, maintenance and other related common fees as negotiated by the respective parties. It is anticipated that the Theatre/Auditorium, Pan Museum, Gift Shop, Rooftop and Cafeteria will earn additional revenue for Pan Trinbago.

**Background**

In 1971, Pan Trinbago, a private organisation, was incorporated by Act No. 5 of 1986. The Act inferred corporate status on Pan Trinbago, setting forth its aims and objectives and conferred upon the organisation, extensive powers, locally and internationally, in all manners to further

the development of the Steelpan, **Trinidad and Tobago's National Musical Instrument**, and to protect the interest and welfare of the members of Steelbands.

Additionally, the Act also provides the powers to Pan Trinbago to, among other provisions, “*acquire land or any estate or interest in land, and to construct or acquire national Headquarters and invest in the production of Steelpan instruments*”.

Dr. Eric Williams, late Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, presented a two-acre parcel of land in Chaguaramas to Pan Trinbago in 1974. That land was used to host various Steelpan related events. In 2001, the then Government provided Pan Trinbago with an eight-acre parcel of land in Trincity. However, title of that eight-acre parcel was never properly transferred to Pan Trinbago.

### **Approved Pan Trinbago Headquarters**

At present, the land space identified on Wrightson Road is approximately *44,347 square feet*. In addition, the existing building on the site is deemed not suitable for the proposed accommodations and will be demolished. Pan Trinbago will therefore be the owner of this land and the property to be constructed thereon and will establish a *Special Purpose Company* responsible for administration, maintenance, rental, and other logistical tasks relative to the building's use.

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance, has identified funding of an estimated *one hundred and twenty million dollars* (\$120, 000, 000.00) over the projected period for construction of the Headquarters, to start with an allocation to be determined in Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

### **Looking Ahead**

Over the years, numerous public promises were made by Governments past to construct a Headquarters building for Pan Trinbago, many citing its recognition of the importance of this body. However, it is only now, in 2024, alongside the many other Steelpan achievements, *the United Nations designation of August 11<sup>th</sup> as World Steelpan Day; the assenting of the National Musical Instrument Act, 2024; and the attainment of the Geographical Indicator (GI) for the Trinidad and Tobago Steelpan*, that tangible progress is presently being made to construct the Pan Trinbago Headquarters.

Complemented by the assistance of Pan Trinbago's line Ministry and the natural nexus between Trinidad and Tobago's tourism offerings alongside Carnival and Steelpan events, housing all related entities in one common building will support the improvement of synergies and stakeholder relations, as well as the advancement of national projects.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the continuous development and preservation of our National Musical Instrument, all while propelling Pan Trinbago as Steelpan's world governing body.

*The following photos are the proposed design for the Pan Trinbago Headquarters, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.*



**PROPOSED PAN TRINBAGO HEADQUARTERS**  
Perspective View from Wrightson Road (North Eastern View)



**PROPOSED PAN TRINBAGO HEADQUARTERS**  
Corner Perspective View from Wrightson Road





**PROPOSED PAN TRINBAGO HEADQUARTERS**  
Mood Board and Design Inspiration for Cafeteria, Conference  
Rooms and Theatre/Auditorium



**PROPOSED PAN TRINBAGO HEADQUARTERS**  
Mood Board for Rooftop Garden



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