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MEDIA RELEASE

CARNIVAL 2025 READY TO TAKE THE SAVANNAH STAGE AND IGNITE: NATIONAL JUNIOR PANORAMA FINALS SET TO BEGIN FESTIVITIES

The highly anticipated Carnival 2025 season is officially underway, bringing an electrifying pulse of culture, music, and celebrations to the nation. Led by **The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts** in collaboration with **The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (NCC)**, all preparations are on schedule to ensure a seamless and unforgettable experience for all.

Commencing the festivities, the National Junior Panorama Finals will take centre stage on **Sunday, February 2nd, 2025**. This cultural event showcasing the Steelpan artform will take place at the iconic Queen's Park Savannah, which is now fully primed to welcome participants and spectators alike. With the stage set and excitement brewing, Carnival 2025 promises to be a spectacular showcase of Trinidad and Tobago's rich cultural fabric bringing participants together locally and internationally.

Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts, conducted a site visit to the Queen's Park Savannah to assess the works on key areas, including the Grand Stand, Main Stage, North Stand, and the John Cupid Carnival Village where he noted: *"I am confident in the state of readiness for Carnival 2025. We expect an even larger turnout this year as we build on the momentum of past successes."* Joining him on the tour was **Ms. Keiba Jacob Mottley, Chief Executive Officer of The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago**.

During the site visit, several major projects were confirmed as completed, while others remain on track for their scheduled public openings.

Completed Projects:

- **Grand Stand:** The main permanent structure at the Queen's Park Savannah has undergone Phase I of a three-year upgrade project, including the removal of timber floors and installation of concrete flooring. This phase is now complete with the addition of handrails and floor lights.
- **North Stand:** Construction is complete and was handed over on Thursday January 31st, 2025. Enhancements include the installation of structural steel framing, galvanized roofing, and final outfitting with flooring, lighting, and sound systems.
- **Main Stage:** Now fully completed with the final layer of poly non-skid flooring installed.

Other key structures remain on schedule for their public openings:

- **John Cupid Carnival Village:** Infrastructure is progressing as planned and will be ready for its public debut on Friday February 7th, 2025. Final outfitting—stage, decks, lighting, and vendor booths is underway.
- **Vendor Booths:** The 120 iconic booths showcasing 100% locally made food, beverages, handicrafts, and leather goods are expected to be occupied by vendors and set to welcome the public by the second week of February.

These renovations are part of the Government’s broader vision to provide world-class experiences at the Queen’s Park Savannah, which serves as the home for a vast majority of cultural events on our Tourism calendar. The Ministry and the NCC remain committed to ensuring that Carnival 2025 exceeds all expectations by delivering an experience that highlights the rich culture and talent of Trinidad and Tobago.

John Cupid Carnival Village Opening Soon

The Ministry is also thrilled to announce that the John Cupid Carnival Village is on track to open on Friday February 7th, 2025.

Visitors to the Carnival Village can look forward to specially curated **free** daytime entertainment catering to tourists, including cruise ship passengers and students. There will also be **free** evening concerts celebrating Trinidad and Tobago’s musical heritage. Performances will include Calypso, Kaiso, Chutney, Soca, Riddim, Steelpan, Gospel, karaoke, and comedy productions. Robust security measures will ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all patrons.

Employment Opportunities

The various projects at the Queen’s Park Savannah, including the Main Stage, Grand Stand, North Stand, and the John Cupid Carnival Village created numerous employment opportunities, further highlighting the Government’s commitment to national development and job creation.

Enhancing Visitor Experience

The Ministry’s efforts are focused on delivering an exceptional Carnival experience that caters to both locals and international visitors. With upgraded facilities, enhanced security measures, and a variety of engaging activities, Trinidad and Tobago’s Carnival 2025 is set to leave an indelible mark on everyone who participates.

Minister Mitchell added, *“Carnival is a celebration of our identity, creativity, and resilience. We are committed to ensuring that everyone, from vendors and performers to patrons, feel the pride and joy that our culture brings. This year’s improvements and initiatives are designed to uplift not just the festivities but also the spirit of our nation.”*

Looking Ahead

As Trinidad and Tobago prepares for one of its most anticipated cultural events, the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts assures the public that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure safety, quality, and enjoyment. With just weeks to go, the excitement is building, and the nation looks forward to welcoming visitors from around the world to experience Carnival 2025.

Beginning **Friday February 7th, 2025** be sure to visit the **Queen's Park Savannah at 11 Queen's Park E, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago** for the formal opening of festivities.

About The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts is dedicated to transforming Trinidad and Tobago into a premier tourist destination while developing its cultural and artistic sectors. Through policy, research, strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement, the Ministry continues to stand on the frontline of the Caribbean tourism industry by driving economic, cultural and social progress.

The Ministry fosters synergy between tourism, culture, and the arts, creating an environment where these sectors contribute meaningfully to the national economy and strengthen national identity.

Led by Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, along with Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Videsh Maharaj and Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Martel Waldron, the Ministry remains committed to collaboration and sustainable development.

Below are some photo highlights of the progress at the Queen's Park Savannah for Carnival 2025.



PHOTO 1: Senator the Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts conducted a site visit with Ms. Keiba Jacob Mottley, Chief Executive Officer, The National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, on Friday January 24th, 2025 at the Queen's Park Savannah, Port of Spain to map the progress of preparations for Carnival 2025.



PHOTO 2: Friday January 31st, 2025 – A front side view of the Grand Stand at the Queen's Park Savannah with the recently completed works for Carnival 2025.



PHOTO 3: Friday January 31st, 2025 – A front side view of the North Stand at the Queen's Park Savannah with the recently completed works for Carnival 2025.



PHOTO 4: Friday January 31st, 2025 – The John Cupid Carnival Village set-up at the Queen's Park Savannah for Carnival 2025.

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