



# London Mission

Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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Trinidad and Tobago talent  
on show  
throughout the  
United Kingdom  
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Product of the High Commission of  
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London

# Trinidad and Tobago launches 2009 CHOGM logo and website



Above: The Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

*“CHOGM is a spectacular national event. It leaves behind a legacy of skills and infrastructure, and belief.” – Kamallesh Sharma*

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, the Hon. Patrick Manning, and Commonwealth Secretary-General, H.E. Kamallesh Sharma, officially launched the countdown to the 2009 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) with the unveiling of the logo and website in Port of Spain on 30 June, 2008.

Upon his arrival in Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Sharma visited some of the possible conference venues, hotels and general infrastructure that are expected to support the summit. A CHOGM involves meetings of leaders and foreign ministers, as well as several parallel events, such as business, people's and youth forums.

“CHOGM will catapult Trinidad and Tobago as a nation and the Caribbean as a region into the prominence they deserve,” stated Mr Sharma. “This country is a dynamo for the Caribbean, a place of energy – both literal and metaphorical.”

Prime Minister Manning announced that CHOGM 2009 would be held from 27-29 November in the Trinidad and Tobago capital, Port of Spain. The Secretary-General will now formally inform Heads of Government about the date.

Trinidad and Tobago has earned a reputation as a dynamic economy and hub for international businesses, boasting one of the highest growth rates and per capita incomes in the Caribbean and Latin America.

“To host a big summit like CHOGM requires meticulous preparations, in terms of the logistics and infrastructure as well as the substance of the meeting.

We at the Commonwealth Secretariat, who have considerable experience of organising such summits, work in close partnership with the host government,” said Mr. Sharma.

Before the launch, Mr. Sharma held talks with Mr. Manning which focused on the preparations for the CHOGM and other issues of interest to Trinidad and Tobago and the Commonwealth, including Caribbean regional issues. The Secretary-General also called on Trinidad and Tobago's President, Professor George Maxwell Richards TC. CMT. PhD., Foreign Minister, the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, House Speaker, the Honourable Barendra Sinanan, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Basdeo Panday.

After his visit to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Sharma journeyed to Antigua and Barbuda for the second leg of his official visit to the Caribbean, where he had been invited to address regional leaders at the 29th Regular Meeting of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

**CHOGM 2009 website**

<http://www.chogm2009.org/>



## Finance Minister visits UAE to promote TTIFC

*Left: The Honourable Karen Nunez-Tesheira  
Minister of Finance*

A high-level delegation from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recently completed a trip to the Middle East, securing approval from financial leaders there to work closely on the upcoming opening of the Caribbean nation's International Financial Centre (TTIFC).

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Finance, the Honourable Karen Nunez-Tesheira, called the two days of meetings a remarkable success "that helped to promote the IFC abroad and secured for us a wealth of best practices from global financial leaders. Trinidad and Tobago is the economic success story of the Caribbean and we've had an opportunity to sell that story to Dubai's business and government leaders."

"This trip is one of the most important things we can do in order to guarantee a successful launch of the TTIFC. We want the world to know what investment opportunities exist in Trinidad and Tobago," she said. "We arrived with ambitious objectives, and we depart confident that we've exceeded our goals."

Trinidad and Tobago's International Financial Centre, which will offer a range of banking and financial services, opens for business in August 2008.

The TTIFC "is committed to a slate of world-class initial participants whose presence and participation will assure the TTIFC's rise to a position of clear leadership within the Caribbean region and beyond," Nunez-Tesheira said.

The Hon. Minister continued, "We envision the TTIFC as the gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. But it is of special importance that we want to be a bridge to the Middle East."

Trinidad and Tobago's proximity to North, Central and South America is an important economic driver for the island nation. Its English speaking population and stable government, make it an attractive investment opportunity for business interests from around the globe. Its abundant natural resources -- Trinidad and Tobago is the largest exporter of liquid natural gas to the U.S. -- provide an important connection to Dubai, as both regions are leveraging their energy strengths into more diverse economies.

Minister Nunez-Tesheira met with Dubai's Minister of Finance, Tourism Managing Director, senior officials at Dubai's International Financial Centre and the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates, and the chief of Dubai's Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the

delegation met with senior executives at DP World, the international shipping giant, and private sector investors who are securing office space at the TTIFC.

Members of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation included: Earnest Littles, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Development Corp.; Ewart S. Williams, Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago; Samuel Martin, Chairman First Citizens Bank; Vishnu Dhanpaul, from the Ministry of Finance; and Hazel Marcelle of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre."

After Dubai, the delegation travelled to New York for meetings with representatives from Moody's, Standard and Poor's, Credit Suisse, JP Morgan, UBS and CitiGroup.

The TTIFC will promote commercial banking and investment opportunities in: downstream energy projects; commodities finance and trading based on the country's energy sector products; large-scale real estate development, resorts and tourism; and transportation projects such as ports, airports, shipping and support facilities.



## Chaguaramas to become Trinidad and Tobago's new food basket

*Left: The Honourable Arnold Piggott  
Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine resources*

Chaguaramas is set to become Trinidad and Tobago's newest food basket now that the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources has officially commenced the Tucker Valley Large Farm Project, which will see the establishment of a 200-acre commercial farm on Trinidad's northwest peninsula.

When fully operational, the Farm should provide 420 acres of crops to be planted annually, through the use of crop rotation and intensive land utilization. It should supply 4,000 tons of agricultural produce per year, including a variety of fruits, vegetables, root crops and grains.

In addition to increasing the supply and quality of food crops available to local wholesalers and retailers, the Tucker Valley Large Farm Project aims to expand the volume of agricultural commodities exported.

Through its use of innovative technologies and a dynamic cropping mix, the Project also strives to facilitate a decrease in the price of foodstuff produced, while generating income levels in line with a traditional commercial farm.

The Project, which is key to the Government's mission to stem the rises in food prices and, ultimately,

sustain National Food and Nutrition Security, was launched by the Minister of the Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, Senator the Honourable Arnold Piggott, at a conference held on June 13, 2008, at Kapok Hotel, St. Clair, Trinidad.

The launch followed on the heels of a three-day workshop attended by members of a special technical team from the Republic of Cuba and local stakeholders in the design and implementation of the Project. The workshop boasted an impressive cross-section of experts from the agricultural sector who explored all aspects of the Tucker Valley Large Farm Project to effectively engineer and strategise its success.

Cuba's participation in the Project is a direct result of a decision taken by Cabinet in 2007 for the establishment of the Tucker Valley Large Farm to be effected through a technical co-operation agreement between the Government of Cuba and that of Trinidad and Tobago. It was a year earlier that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago decided to establish 15 large commercial farms around the country in order to revitalise the agriculture sector and increase local food production.

The Chaguaramas Development Authority has been charged with the

responsibility of overseeing the Project, which will be sited on Tucker Valley land found to possess appropriate soil characteristics that would permit cultivation of a wide range of food crops and vegetables using proven technologies. The land is also deemed to be favourable for key elements of infrastructure, including general drainage, main access and peripheral roads, and utilities.

Key to the Farm's success is the utilization of innovative cropping techniques aimed at high yields per acre. However, all technology will be in harmony with the goal of protecting the environment, in particular preserving the critical areas of the Chaguaramas peninsula as a National Park, and insulating the Tucker Valley aquifer, which serves as an important source of ground water for distribution to many communities in north Trinidad.



## Senior Chinese Government official visits Trinidad & Tobago

**H**is Excellency He Guoqiang, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, paid an Official Visit to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 25th to 27th June, 2008.

Mr. He led a high level delegation which included His Excellency Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Liaison Department, and other officials from the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

During the visit, Mr. He paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards TC, CMT, PhD, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

He also met with the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and called on the Honourable Orville London, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding Establishing the Joint Committee for Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of the People's Republic of China was signed.

Among the activities planned were visits to the Point Lisas Industrial Estate and to Fort George in Trinidad and other sites of interest in Tobago. The Honourable Prime

Minister also hosted a dinner on the occasion of the visit by Mr. He.

Other high level officials from the People's Republic of China who have visited the shores of Trinidad and Tobago recently include His Excellency Zeng Qinghong, Vice President, in 2005, and Madame Wu Yi, then State Councillor, Full Member of the Political Bureau of the Sixteenth CCP Central Committee of the People's Republic of China, who visited in 2003.

The delegation arrived in Trinidad and Tobago on 25th June, following a visit to Cuba and departed for Brazil from Tobago on 27th June, 2008.

## Official Visit By His Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor President Of The Republic Of Ghana



**H**is Excellency John Agyekum Kufuor (pictured), President of the Republic of Ghana, will pay a State Visit to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 31st July to 2nd August, 2008 on the occasion of the commemoration of Emancipation Day 2008.

During his visit, H.E. John Agyekum Kufuor will pay a courtesy call on His Excellency Professor George Maxwell Richards, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He will also meet with the Honourable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister, on bilateral issues.

Activities planned include the laying of a wreath at The Memorial Park, participation in the Emancipation Day commemorative events, and a visit to the Point Lisas Industrial Estate. Their Excellencies, Professor George Maxwell Richards and Dr. Jean Ramjohn-Richards will host a State Dinner on the occasion of the visit by President Kufuor.

President Jerry Rawlings of the Republic of Ghana visited Trinidad and Tobago in August 1997. Other African Heads of State who have visited on the occasion of Emancipation Day have been President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria in 2005 and President Museveni of Uganda in 2007. The ties between Trinidad and Tobago and Ghana are many and include the influence of the Trinidad and Tobago-born Pan Africanist George Padmore and the intellectual legacy of C.L.R. James.

## His Excellency John Jeremie S.C. assumes office as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom

On Monday 30th June, 2008, His Excellency John Jeremie S.C., assumed office as the High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, with accreditation to Germany, Denmark, Finland Sweden and Norway.

His Excellency succeeds former High Commissioner, H.E. Glenda Morean Phillip who has been reassigned to Washington D.C., United States of America.

On his first day in Office, High Commissioner Jeremie was introduced to the staff of the Mission by the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Victoria Farley.

Himself a former Attorney General, the new High Commissioner indicated his intention to continue the good work of H.E. Glenda Morean Phillip S.C., whom, he said, "made considerable strides to reach out to the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora."

A prominent public official who has served his country with distinction, H.E. John Jeremie S.C. brings to the position more than sixteen years of dedicated public service, and has wasted no time in putting that experience to use in London. Major activities in Office thus far include:

- Attended meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers, Edinburgh, Scotland;
- Attended the Caribbean UK Forum, Co-Chaired by the



Above: H. E. John Jeremie S.C. (far right), before the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit Session.

Hon. Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister, of Antigua and Barbuda and the Hon. Megg Munn, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and

- Chaired the Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit Session on Rwanda's bid to become part of the Commonwealth.

## Seminar on the Need for Police Reform in the Commonwealth

Defence Attaché makes presentation on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago



Lt Colonel Sharon Alfonso-Farrell, Defence Attaché

On Thursday 5 June 2008, the Commonwealth Human Rights initiative hosted a seminar at the Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, London. The event was hosted by the Chairman of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Dr. Neville Linton.

The focus of the seminar was to respond to an aspect of the CHRI CHOGM 2005 report that advanced discussion on the state of policing in the Commonwealth and the urgent need for reform. It was considered that a tangible way to take forward the concept was to establish an Expert Group on Police Reform. It was felt that good policing was crucial to democracy, development and the practical realization of human rights.

It was further indicated that member states share not only a common colonial history, but also similar policing styles

and issues, resulting from their colonial past. It is against this background that the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative embraced the challenge to advance the process of establishing an Expert Group on Policing. The benefits of such a group include facilitating communication among existing Commonwealth networks so that best practices can be shared and a more wholesome approach to police reform can be encouraged.

The Seminar sought to obtain information on what is happening in Police Reform in Trinidad and Tobago, South Africa and in the United Kingdom. The Defence Attaché, Lt Colonel Sharon Alfonso-Farrell, made the presentation on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago.

At the conclusion, it was stated that the Law Ministers would be approached at their next meeting in Edinburgh to support the proposal to have an Expert Group constituted after the 2009 Commonwealth Heads meeting in Trinidad and Tobago so that the group may report to the 2011 CHOGM.

*Trini...a synonym for excellence!*

# Trinbagonian riches on show...

## Tobago does us Proud at the 2008 Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod

by Roanna Gopaul



former Church of England envoy who spent 1,760 days as a hostage in Beirut, before his release in November 1991. In his remarks, Mr. Waite spoke meaningfully of the importance of cultures getting together and understanding each other and the role of the Eisteddfod in bringing cultures and peoples together.

Rhythmic Vibrations placed second in the Folk Songs category on Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup>, with the Northern Kwa-Zulu Natal Youth Choir of South Africa placing first. The group performed to a highly appreciative audience and was clearly a crowd favourite. All of their performances were well rehearsed with excellent costuming and choreography. The group showed enthusiasm, and energy and there was no doubt that they fully enjoyed their performances. This group was well deserving of their placement and did Trinidad and Tobago proud.

The International Eisteddfod is a music festival which takes place every year during the second week of July in Llangollen, North Wales. Singers and dancers from around the world are invited to take part in over 20 high quality competitions followed each evening by concerts where the best and most colourful competitors share the stage with professional artists.

This year, the Eisteddfod was held from July 8-13, 2008. The event was exceptionally well co-ordinated, with participation from more than fifty countries including Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago was the only Caribbean country participating in the event this year and was represented by the Rhythmic Vibrations group of Tobago (*pictured above*). The group, led by Ms. Arlene Daniel, participated in the Adult Folk Dance and the Folk Song Groups categories on Wednesday July 9<sup>th</sup> and in the Youth Choirs on Thursday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

The group also performed in the evening concert held on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This event was opened by Terry Waite, the

### Gold at Hampton Court



The Horticultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago followed up their success at Chelsea with a Gold medal display at the Hampton Court Flower Show. The theme of this year's gold-winning exhibition was "The Caribbean...the World's Paradise." Pictured are Janice Benjamin (left) and designer Joan Wilson.

*Trini...a synonym for excellence!*

## throughout the United Kingdom



### High praise for young cultural Ambassadors

by Ashton Ford

Pupils of St Xavier Private School, St. Joseph, Trinidad, ended their 17 day cultural tour to England and Ireland on Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup> with an impressive performance at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London

The students, whose ages ranged from seven to eleven years, played their repertoire of music before the visiting Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, the Honourable Donna Cox, who was in London to participate in a CPA Forum, the then Acting High Commissioner, Victoria Farley and First Secretary Roanna Gopaul.

Assistant Attaché Donna Philip-Forde who was instrumental in her service as the liaison officer to the touring party, and other members of staff were also present.

The young players were described as the “Cultural Ambassadors” of

Trinidad and Tobago throughout their tour, which saw them perform at Princes May Primary, St James Catholic High School and Gunnersbury Catholic High School in London, Green Park, Ireland and Worcester respectively.

The band was warmly greeted by spectators at all their performances with “Rainorama” being the most popular song among the varied selections which included the theme song from “Cats”, the well known Italian tune “Finiculli, internationally acclaimed Beatles song “Let it Be”, the theme from Titanic, and Ireland’s favourite “Londonderry Air,” commonly called Oh Danny Boy.

Apart from Kitchener’s Rainorama, the band also delighted the audience at the High Commission when they played a medley of calypso songs like Terror’s “A little monkey” and Kitchener’s “Ole Lady walk a mile”.

Shadow’s “Bass Man”, “Carnival” by Explainer and the recent road march “Colours” were also well received.

The group displayed their versatility when they played hymns such as “Amazing Grace” and “Let there be peace on earth” when they attended a church service in Ireland.

Carol Lee, Vice Principal of the St. Xavier School and Coordinator of the tour, praised the band’s musical Director, Mrs. Rosalind Garnes (*pictured above right*), whom she said was responsible for the high standard of music displayed by the youngsters.

The members of staff at the High Commission were proud of the professional manner in which the young members of the band played and conducted themselves on the tour.

Eye on Trade...



## Cultural Commandments

### Germany

by Dionne Ligoure

Germany is regarded as the power-house of Europe. It is also regarded as having a linear culture. Germans are task oriented, highly organised planners who complete action chains by doing one thing at a time.

Generally, the basic characteristics of traditional German business culture are a monochromic attitude toward the use of time; a strong belief that Germans are honest, straightforward negotiators; and have a tendency to be blunt and disagree openly rather than going for diplomacy.

Following are some points to keep in mind when doing business in Germany:

#### Be thorough and check everything again

Grundlichkeit (thoroughness) is a core German virtue. Background and context should be explained at great length. Individuals should demonstrate great knowledge of facts, figures and every last detail. Repeat. Check understanding. Potential problems should be examined and solutions demonstrated. The same thoroughness applies to quality.

#### Be direct and honest

According to Richard Lewis, telling things as they are, even if it can be personally damaging, is a German trait. They trust each other to tell the truth with no taboos.

#### Don't make it sound too simple

To German ears, simple messages are not complete.

#### Be sufficiently formal

Earning titles and authority takes time, energy and application and therefore individuals like to hold them. Showing respect for social and professional hierarchies and communication paths will gain points. Shake hands a lot and never shout across crowded rooms.

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#### Foreign Exchange Rates as at July 21, 2008

Currency	Counter: Buying	Selling	Notes: Buying
Pound Sterling	12.2324	12.7158	11.5000
US Dollar	6.1071	6.2598	6.0000

Source: Scotiabank Trinidad & Tobago Limited

WTI Cushing Spot Crude Oil Price  
on July 21, 2008  
\$130.19 per barrel

The following is a release by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago:

## INFLATION AT 10.0 PER CENT: 'REPO' RATE STAYS AT 8.25 PER CENT BUT LIQUIDITY ABSORPTION INTENSIFIES

The latest data on inflation released by the Central Statistical Office indicate that headline inflation rose to 10 per cent on a year-on-year basis to May 2008 from 9.3 per cent in the previous month. This increase was led by food prices which rose by 21.8 per cent in May from 19.5 per cent in the previous month. On a monthly basis, food prices rose by 4.0 per cent – the largest monthly increase since February 2005. The main contributors to food inflation were increases in the prices of bread and cereals (35.1 per cent on a year-on-year basis), fruit (33.6 per cent), vegetables (22.6 per cent) oils and fats (20.2 per cent), and meat (13.4 per cent).

The worldwide increase in the price of cereals would have contributed to the rise in the prices of rice and flour in particular. While the prices for fish and milk, cheese and eggs continued to increase, the rate of increase slowed. In respect of fish, the rate was 25.4 per cent on a year-on-year basis to May compared with 32.6 per cent in April while for milk, cheese and eggs, the rate was 25.8 per cent compared with 28.5 per cent.

Core inflation, which filters out the effects of food prices, remained virtually unchanged from the previous month at 5.2 per cent. The rate of increase in the sub-indices for alcohol and clothing measured 13.5 per cent and 4.2 per cent (year-on-year) in May, respectively, while those for health and housing slowed to 5.4 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively.

During May, price increases for several basic commodities went into effect. Information obtained from NAMDEVCO shows sizeable increases in the prices for some agricultural commodities. Carrots increased to \$10.99 per kg from \$9.29, while Cassava rose to \$3.44 per kg from \$3.31. Chive showed an even more significant increase to \$16.93 per bundle from \$12.19.

Transportation costs have also been increasing. For example, the San Juan Taxi Drivers' Association has increased its fare by \$1.00.

Liquidity in the financial system has been relatively tight over the past two months. In response, commercial banks have made greater use of the inter-bank market and the

repurchase facility at the Central Bank to meet their funding requirements. As a result, the weighted average interbank rate rose from 7.3 per cent in April to 7.4 per cent at the end of May.

The rate of bank credit expansion has declined slightly but remains unacceptably high. Private sector credit increased by 17.7 per cent (year-on-year) in April compared with 17.8 per cent in March. The expansion in credit continues to be mainly in the areas of consumer loans (19.5 per cent year-on-year to April) and real estate mortgage loans (20.9 per cent). However, the pace of business credit expansion slowed to 14.8 per cent (year-on-year) to April from 16.5 per cent in March.

The amalgamation of RBC/RBTT is expected to inject a sizeable amount of liquidity into the financial system as shareholders of RBTT begin to receive their cash settlements. To contain the liquidity impact of this cash injection, the Government is issuing the first tranche of sterilization bonds of FV\$1.2 billion on July 2, 2008. Several private financial institutions are also taking steps to mobilize some of the increased capital inflows to finance both regional and local projects.

Additionally, the Bank has intensified the level of open market operations. Inflation control is likely to present increased challenges over the next several months especially against the background of rising food and energy prices at the global level, continued fiscal pressures and increasing inflationary expectations. The situation could be exacerbated if the advent of the rainy season affects domestic agricultural supplies as has occurred in the past few years. The Bank will be paying close attention to the many factors noted above and will take additional action as needed to address inflationary pressures.

Against the background of intensified liquidity absorption measures, the Bank has decided to maintain the "repo" rate at 8.25 per cent.

**The next 'Repo' rate announcement is scheduled for July 25, 2008.**

## Full house present for address by the Hon. Junia Regrello

Parliamentary Secretary addresses nationals at the June nationals meeting at the TTHC



by Ashton Ford

Culture will play a pivotal role in the development of Trinidad and Tobago. This was the view that was expressed by the Hon. Junia Regrello, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, when he addressed a gathering of nationals residing in England, who were attending one of the monthly meetings held at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission in London recently.

The Parliamentary Secretary told his large audience that the culture sector was pivotal to the development of innovative people. He pointed out that the Government had embarked on three flagship projects which, once implemented, would be equipped with state of the art facilities for exposing our artistes and performers to the training and technology necessary for achieving world class standards.

Mr. Regrello disclosed that the first project was the construction of two centres for the Performing Arts – one at the Princess Building grounds in Port of Spain and the other in San Fernando. He informed his listeners that both centres were already under construction and, when completed, would be managed by the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

Mr. Regrello further stated that the skills of a large number of our artistes would be expected to be honed and developed at these facilities since the entry qualifications will not be the normal university requirements, but will centre around artistic talent.

He said that the second project was the Carnival and Entertainment Centre which will be constructed in the site previously occupied by the Grand Stand, Queen's Park Savannah. This is slated to be completed by 2010 and is destined to become the centrepiece of carnival internationally.

“We pride ourselves as the Mecca of Carnival and our World Carnival and Entertainment Centre will validate this proud image,” he said.

Mr. Regrello told nationals that over the last two years, the Ministry had taken proactive decisions to remedy recurring problems and enhance the annual carnival celebrations.

“Towards this end,” he added, “the experiment of moving the parade of bands on Carnival Monday and Tuesday from Queen's Park Savannah to the streets of Port of Spain has proven to be successful ...Mas will therefore remain on the streets as a result of public consensus.”

Earlier in his presentation, Mr. Regrello paid tribute to the nationals residing in England who had been keeping the national flag flying high. He said, “we feel extremely proud when our local and international print and electronic media bring to our doorsteps the wide array of activities organized by our nationals domiciled in England as well as leadership which is provided by the staff of the High Commission in London.

Attaché Ashton Ford, who chaired the meeting, stated that Mr. Regrello's presentation was certainly well received by the nationals who responded positively to the Parliamentary Secretary's inspirational message. Also in attendance were Assistant Attachés Donna Philip Forde and Donald Chambers who delivered the vote of thanks.

During his visit in England, Mr. Regrello also held discussions with several cultural groups in London with a view to maintaining a link with Trinidad and Tobago.

# Notting Hill Carnival: The Evolution

In the build-up to Notting Hill Carnival we present part 2 of a 3 part piece by contributing writer **David Kalloo**.

The growth of Notting Hill Carnival did not go unnoticed by the British authorities. They matched the increasing civilian numbers with a police presence that, each year, was greater than the last. By 1976, according to Michael La Rose, the number of police in the streets of Notting Hill, “went from 300 in previous years to 3000.” Full scale rioting ensued when, what many considered to be heavy handed policing, cast an ugly shadow over what had always been a peaceful event.

Efforts to confine the Carnival to the archives by The Metropolitan Police Service were halted when the Carnival Arts Committee (CAC), headed by Vijay Ramlall, Bertha Joseph, Granville Price and other members took up the baton to campaign for the Carnival to remain on the streets of Notting Hill.

Ramlall, sensing that the Police were attempting to have the last say, wrote to Prince Charles, asking for his intervention to keep the Carnival on the streets. Today, Ramlall admits that, “I did not get an official response from Prince Charles. However, not long after, the Metropolitan Police contacted me to say they were prepared to go ahead with proposals by the CAC, for carnival to continue on the streets of Notting Hill.”

While Clarence House is yet to confirm or deny the supposed intervention by Prince Charles, an article published in October, 1976, at the very least, seemed to suggest that the Prince was in favour of the event.

Carnival in London quickly evolved, incorporating elements from influences outside of Trinidad and Tobago. As Ramlall states, “What people had to understand was that Carnival could no longer be just a ‘Trini ting’.” Patrons from Europe and beyond were encouraged to come to London to participate in the extravaganza that was London’s Notting Hill Carnival. As the years passed, static sound system stages and live act stages were introduced and became popular features at the event, so much so, that of the large crowds that they attracted, many amongst them never saw a single costume or float. The stationary sound system was what carnival was to them... a concept inconceivable to the average Trinbagonian reveller.



*Above: the Notting Hill Riots in 1976.*



*Above: In the early years, the enthusiasm for the event was evident in the streets. Below: One of the many stationary sound systems that came to dominate the Notting Hill experience for so many.*



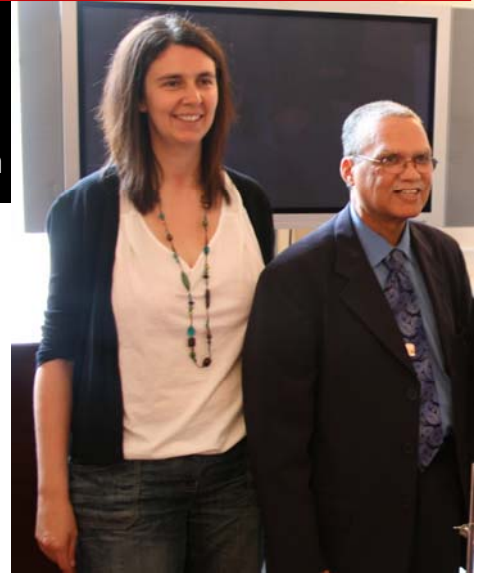
## A lesson in Pan

Aberdeen youths visit TTHC London



The Bankhead Academy of Aberdeen visited the High Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, London, on Wednesday 25th June. The group met Trinidad and Tobago's Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, the Honourable Junia Regrello, who was on a visit to London to meet cultural groups managed by nationals residing in the United Kingdom.

The group of students and teachers, all of whom play the steelpan, were treated to an impromptu workshop on the steelpan by Mr. Regrello, as the panman turned Member of Parliament, engaged his audience with a passionate and interactive presentation. After relating the history of the musical instrument, from its conception to the present day development of the G Pan, Mr. Regrello showed his skills with a hands on demonstration of how to play the pan (see picture at left). He encouraged the young pan enthusiasts to emulate their Trinbagonian counterparts and smile and have fun whilst performing, a point which was welcomed by music



Above: Attaché Ashton Ford with Tracey Milne of the Bankhead Academy.

teacher and head of the touring party, Tracey Milne.

The Bankhead Academy established a relationship with Trinidad and Tobago through the Tamana Youth Steelband and the Gary Straker Pan School. Both groups have visited Aberdeen for the annual World Youth Festival over the last five years. The festival features cultural groups from all over the world.

Also present at the High Commission were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kenny, nationals living in Aberdeen. The Kenny's grandson was a student in touring party.



Above: The Honourable Junia Regrello addresses Bankhead Academy students.

## BT Melodians add Norway to their list

Trinbagonian Terry Noel and the BT Melodians UK recently performed for over 700 guests at a function hosted by the British Embassy in Norway. The Melodians were in Norway at the request of Britain's Ambassador to that country, His Excellency David Powell.

Norway is the latest in a long list of countries visited by this highly acclaimed and well travelled Steelband. Other countries include: Azerbaijan; Belgium; Croatia; Dagestan; Dubai; France; Germany; Ireland; India; Jersey; Kazakhstan; Lebanon; Malta; Morocco; North Korea; Poland; Russia; Sri Lanka; Singapore; Switzerland; and Trinidad & Tobago.



Above: Terry Noel (far right) and other members of the BT Melodians, with Trinidad and Tobago's Honorary Consul to Norway, Rolf Holmen and Mrs. Holmen (centre).

**ATTENTION  
NATIONALS**

Please note that there will be NO  
nationals meeting in August.

Next meeting:  
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# Focus on the Mission



*Above: Students from St. Xavier Primary School in Trinidad and Tobago, perform at the Trinidad and Tobago High Commission, London. Above right: The Hon. Donna Cox, Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, greets a young bass pan player from St. Xavier after the band's performance at the Mission.*



*Above: First Secretary Roanna Gopaul with Arlene Daniel (leader of Rhythmic Vibrations) and Richard Parisienne.*

*'Trini Colours': Beverley Toney, Mandisa Regrello and Alafair Celestine make for a patriotic picture at the June nationals meeting. Below: Eugenie Arthur (fourth from right) at her retirement luncheon with other members of staff.*



*Left: Miss Eugenie Arthur receives a gift from colleague Rasheda Morton on behalf of the other members of staff, on the occasion of her retirement after 21 years of service at the High Commission.*



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