



## **SCOTIABANK TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED**

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**August 10, 2023**

### **Scotiabank commemorates World Steelpan Day with further donations of steelpans to schools.**

For over 40 years, Scotiabank has supported the promotion of our national instrument – the steelpan, through contributions to numerous independent/unsponsored steelbands during the Carnival season and the support of steelpan education amongst youth.

The latter has seen schools and community groups benefit from donations of equipment towards their steelpan education programmes. Febeau Government Primary and Guaico Presbyterian benefited from new steelpans, uniforms and other ancillary needs, while more recently, in 2022, Scotiabank's donation to the Rotary Club of POS's Beetham Vibrations Steel Orchestra enabled the purchase of instruments, as well as the tutoring of players.

This year, the Scotiabank Foundation has pledged its continued support of steelpan education for the benefit of students at El Dorado East Secondary School, with the purchase of much needed new equipment.

Furthermore, through United Way Trinidad and Tobago's (UWTT) Building Bridges to Success Programme, the Scotiabank Foundation has also committed to providing steelpans to Matura Government Primary School. This follows a similar donation earlier this year to St. Mary's Mucurapo Boys' and Girls RC Primary Schools.

Kristen Francis, Community Impact Manager, UWTT indicated "UWTT's Building Bridges for Success Programme focuses on supporting a child's foundational skills to improve their chances of success. We support 5–7-year-olds to improve these skills through programmes. One avenue is via the power of music and steelpan. Following the global pandemic, this investment in young children is needed now more than ever. Thanks to the Scotiabank Foundation's partnership with UWTT, we were able to bring our national instrument closer to the students of Fifth Company (St. Gregory's) Anglican Primary School in 2017, St. Mary's Mucurapo Boys and Girls Roman Catholic Primary School in 2023 and now to Matura Government Primary School."

Cindy-Lou Dannett, Acting Principal at Matura Government Primary School expressed her delight in the school being a recipient of new steelpan instruments. "We at Matura Government Primary School feel extremely privileged as UWTT and the Scotiabank Foundation persist in efforts to uplift and empower our students. Studies show that music education improves language and communication skills and promotes creativity. We look forward to having students engage in this music programme and eagerly anticipate all the joy and growth they are expected to experience" she commented.

Gayle Pazos, Senior VP and Managing Director, Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago highlighted the Bank's continued support for steelpan education, especially for youth stating "We have a lot to be proud of here in Trinidad and Tobago and this includes our national instrument. In helping to promote our rich culture, we support initiatives that engage, entertain, and educate our youth about the steelpan to not only instill in them a passion for our history but also provide them with opportunities to occupy their spare time and realise their full potential."



Youngsters in the Beetham Vibrations Steel Orchestra during a practice session on the steelpans funded by Scotiabank.



A student of Mucurapo Boys enthusiastically plays the steelpan during a class with Kyshon Frith – Music Teacher. The school's steelpans were donated by Scotiabank through a collaboration with United Way.

#### **About Scotiabank**

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