

SANDY: ELECTION OBSERVERS WELCOME

Chief Administrator Raye Sandy sees benefits to the Commonwealth Secretariat observer team's visit to Trinidad and Tobago.

The three-member team met with Tobago House of Assembly (THA) officials on Friday (July 24, 2015), as part of its pre-electoral assessment of the country.

It was just one of several stops to institutions that will be impacted by the upcoming 2015 general elections.

After its series of visits, the team will report its findings to the Commonwealth's Secretary General, who will decide whether to send an observer team for the September 7 poll.

Sandy said: "Any little minor

flaws or errors in our process here, they will be able to recommend how we could fix it in the future. Although generally elections in Trinidad and Tobago are free and fair, given their wealth of experience—they have visited a few different countries—they can recommend ways in which we can improve on our process."

During the meeting with the THA, Martin Kasirye, Advisor and Head of the Secretariat's Electoral Support Political Division, said the visit is needed to assess whether the ground is "favourable" for deploying Commonwealth observers, and to determine whether they will have the requisite access to polling stations.

QUOW HELPS RELAY MEN TO PAN AM GOLD

Trinidad and Tobago closed its 2015 Pan Am Games campaign with its biggest-ever medal haul and an overall placing of 15th.

The national team picked up eight medals overall, with perhaps their most impressive win coming from the 4x400 metres relay team. That effort was led off by Tobago's Renny Quow, who got the team's effort off to a great start, and was first to hand off. Jarrin Solomon and Emanuel Mayers kept Trinidad and Tobago among the medals, before a searing run from anchor Machel Cedenio hauled in the leading runners on the home straight to complete the win in a season's best two minutes, 59.60 seconds.

T&T's other gold medals came from Cleopatra Borel (women's shot put) and Keshorn Walcott (men's javelin). Mikel Thomas (100m hurdles), Cedenio (men's 400m) and cyclist Njisane Phillip (men's sprint) won silver, while T&T's 4x100m relay men and swimmer George Bovell (50m freestyle) got bronze.



HERITAGE AT PLYMOUTH: Residents strut through the streets of Plymouth during the Masquerade Theatre segment of the Plymouth Ole Time Tobago Carnival celebrations on Saturday (June 28, 2015). The event also included J'Ouvert celebrations and the Calypso Monarch Competition.

LABOUR WORKSHOP TO EMPOWER EMPLOYEES

Tobago's success depends on having a productive and efficient work force.

This is why the Department of Labour within the Division of Settlements and Labour hosted an empowerment workshop for employees, which focussed on three areas: decent work, labour migration to Tobago and productivity on the island.

According to the Division's Administrator Denise Williams, workforce efficiency is very important.

Williams said: "It combines the effectiveness of what you are doing and the efficiency with which you are doing it."

"Productivity is therefore a significant factor in diversification, competitiveness

and sustainable development. Each individual's role is important regardless of his or her position in the workplace."

Secretary of Settlements and Labour Deon Isaac said the Tobago House of Assembly is committed to improving labour on the island.

"(The workshops are) all designed to stimulate discourse but equally

important to educate and fuse the mind with an intent to fuel action," Isaac said.

"The Division of Settlements and Labour is not interested in only talk shops but we walk the walk, and therefore foremost in our minds would be that recommendations emanating from today's talks will be considered with a view to implementing them."