



MEDIA RELEASE

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Dear Editor/ Head of Department

National Schools' Carnival Events 2026: A Celebration of Culture, Creativity and Student Talent

The Ministry of Education is pleased to announce the hosting of the National Schools' Carnival Events 2026, a series of flagship events that continue to showcase the creativity, talent and cultural expression of students at both the Primary and Secondary levels across Trinidad and Tobago. These annual activities reinforce the importance of the arts within the national education system and are fully aligned with the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) curriculum, in which music remains a core component. Through participation, students are afforded meaningful opportunities to develop artistic skills, cultural awareness, discipline and national pride.

The 2026 programme features four major competitions:

- **National Schools' Panorama (NSP)**
- **Junior Soca Competition (JSC)**
- **Schools' Intellectual Carnival Chutney Soca Monarch Competition**
- **Schools' Tassarama Competition**

The Ministry advises that registration for the National Schools' Panorama closed on **Monday 05 January 2026**, with participation from over **40 schools**. Following the preliminary rounds, **23 schools** will advance to the finals, comprising **11 Secondary Schools and 12 Primary Schools** from across Trinidad and Tobago.

Event Schedule:

Competition	Preliminary Round	Finals
National Schools' Panorama (NSP)	07 Jan 2026	19 Jan 2026
Junior Soca Competition (JSC)	30 Jan 2026	09 Feb 2026
Intellectual Carnival Chutney	17 Jan 2026	11 Feb 2026
Soca Monarch Competition		
Schools' Tassarama Competition		11 Feb 2026

To support school participation, the Ministry will provide **transportation assistance for pan equipment** for finalist schools competing in the National Schools' Panorama at the **Skinner Park Sporting Facility, San Fernando**. Additionally, **complimentary transportation** will be provided for students, accompanied by teachers and parents, to all National Schools' Panorama finalists, facilitated through the **Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC)**.

In keeping with Government policy on **safe and secure learning environments**, all finalist venues will be designated **Safe Zones**. These zones will be strictly monitored to maintain a **Drug-Free Environment**, ensuring the safety, wellbeing and positive development of all students. Enhanced security measures, coordinated supervision, and close collaboration with relevant national agencies will support an atmosphere that promotes responsible behaviour, healthy lifestyles, and respect for self and others.

Dr. the Honourable Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education underscored the significance of this year's initiative stating: *"Carnival is the heartbeat of our nation's cultural identity, and through the National Schools' Carnival Activities, we are nurturing that identity in our young people. By embedding culture within education, while ensuring that all event venues operate as designated Safe Zones, we provide students with a secure, drug-free environment in which creativity, discipline and positive values can flourish. This approach empowers our students to appreciate who they are, where they come from, and the creative possibilities that lie ahead."*

In response to popular demand from schools, the Ministry further advises that **registration for the Junior Soca Competition has been extended to Monday 26 January 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

The Ministry of Education emphasises that the successful staging of the National Schools' Carnival Activities is the result of strong **inter-ministerial and stakeholder collaboration**. Key partners including the Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Culture and Community Development, Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, Ministry of Homeland Security, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Works and Infrastructure, Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation, San Fernando City Corporation, and the Tobago House of Assembly, among others. This collaborative approach reflects a shared national commitment to investing in young people, promoting cultural development, and ensuring the sustainability of school-based cultural programmes.

The Ministry of Education remains committed to preserving and promoting Trinidad and Tobago's rich cultural heritage through its annual National Schools' Carnival Activities and looks forward to welcoming students, educators, parents and the wider public to the National Schools' Carnival Activities 2026.

For more information and continuous updates, please visit
<https://moe.gov.tt/national-school-carnival-events-2026/>
and follow the Ministry of Education on all social media platforms.

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