

THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

BARBADOS, WI

BDS\$1.50

THE NATION CARES

## Finalists set for Pic O De Crop

THE LINE-UP is set for the 2024 Courtesy Garage Pic O De Crop Competition.

Yesterday, the 18 finalists or their

representatives pulled the numbers representing their place in the running order on August 2 at the National Botanical Gardens, Waterford, St Michael.

The annual event again occurred at Courtesy Garage, Wildey, St Michael. The artistes included some newcomers and veterans as well as the first-ever disabled finalist in blind performer Mr DeeJay.

Also in the mix were Biggie Irie and his nephew Darin Holder and Trinity, who is competing in both the Junior Monarch and Pic O De Crop competitions.

The grand prize is a 2024 Nissan X-trail e-Power vehicle, valued at \$136 995. The winner will have the option of choosing either the car or \$100 000 in cash.

Here, the finalists gathered around the grand prize, each showing their draw numbers. (CA)

(Picture by Shanice King.)



# CEO: Finals Plan B in place

by **JOSUÉ RAMIRÉZ NELSON**  
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**THE NATIONAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION (NCF) has already booked an indoor space should bad weather affect the staging of the Pic O De Crop Finals scheduled for next week Friday at the National Botanical Gardens, Waterford, St Michael.**

While details on the alternative venue were not revealed, chief executive officer of the NCF, Carol Roberts, said all efforts remained on preparing the space at **Botanical Gardens** to hold the marquee event.

"For **Pic O De Crop**, we've already begun to have some early conversations with tent managers. We could not have conversations with the finalists because, as you are well aware, the last tent was judged last night [Tuesday]. Bright and early as tomorrow we begin to have the conversations with them.

"We've already booked an indoor space as a Plan B, but we are moving ahead to ensure that the space in **Botanical Gardens** is made fit for purpose, for the requirements of the finalists and mindful of the issues we had last year," she said.

Last week, a statement released by the NCF stated that some occasional showers hampered the full technical set-up and rehearsal needed ahead of the **Scotiabank Junior Monarch Finals**

set to be held at the **Botanical Gardens** last Saturday. Following consultation with parents, sponsors, judges and other key stakeholders, the event was postponed.

The **Scotiabank Junior Monarch Finals** will now take place tonight at 7 at the **Garfield Sobers Sports Complex** in Wildey, St Michael. With the **Pic O De Crop Finals** set for next week, president of the Barbados Association of Creatives and Artistes, Sean Carter, said calypsonians questioned the alternative venue in advance instead of having to make last-minute adjustments to possible presentations.

Roberts explained that the process of postponing an event or establishing a Plan B required a holistic process which considered the available dates, venues and the required set-up.

"We understand the angst of various sub-sectors in producing an event, but it is trying to get that delicate balance to the satisfaction of all. Will you strike that balance 100 per cent of the time? Absolutely not, but our intention and our aim is to satisfy as many concerns, sensitivities or desires as possible," she said.

"The other thing is that the success of the event does not rely on the NCF alone. You have mammoth teams, both governmental and non-governmental, who are critical to the success of the event. Whether it is DEM; whether it is

the Police Service; the Defence Force; the health inspectors; whether it is the people who operate the drones; whether it's the vendors.

"It was not an easy decision for the NCF, after the heavy rain and the consistent rain of last week Wednesday to say... we are not going to be able to get the required rehearsals in to be able to let these young people show off to the best of their abilities," she added.

Roberts said that the NCF consults with the Barbados Meteorological Services weekly for relatively accurate predictions on the weather forecast. This, she said, was both for rain and extreme heat.

"It's not just about rain, it's about weather in general. I don't think we can deny that it's kind of a different meteorological environment over the last several years. With the event it's not only weather or the rain falls on the day, but any sustained rainfall also severely hampers set-up, rehearsals, technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals.

"The one thing you cannot pin on us or blame us for is the weather condition and therefore, mindful of what we cannot control, we are taking every step to put in place arrangements that we the collective team can control in the best interest of the calypsonians," she concluded.

Please see also Pages 3, 6 and Centre Pages.

## LINE-UP ORDER

THE FOLLOWING is the running order for the 2024 Pic O De Crop Finals:

1. Mr DeeJay
2. Kid Site
3. Sammy G
4. Chrystal
5. Colin Spencer
6. Sir Ruel
7. Darin Holder
8. Eric Lewis
9. Sammy Dello
10. Grateful Co.
11. John Yarde
12. Billboard
13. Trinity
14. Tae
15. iWeb
16. AC
17. Imara
18. Biggie Irie

Reserve: Quon

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