

# Natl Archives open to public

INFORMATION Minister Neil Parsanlal says officials of the National Archives have launched an outreach programme to render historical records and documents more accessible to the people of TT.

Parsanlal said "the material preserved and stored by the National Archives constituted a most important part of the national heritage which must be preserved and made accessible for the edification, enlightenment and inspiration of all generations."

This was said yesterday at the National Archives emancipation exhibit on St Vincent Street, Port-of-Spain.

He noted that TT archives are essential for the self knowledge needed for nation-building and are particularly important in the education of our young people with whom we need to make a special effort to inculcate that awareness of our history and heritage if they are not to become adrift in the inevitable and overwhelming march of modernisation. Parsanlal, who is also the Member of Parliament for Lopinot/Bon Air West said "there is an inextricable link between the past and present, an appreciation which empowers us to chart the future."

We are all products of our country's history; all with ancestral links to this land and beyond; all shaped by the intermingling, in this space, of the various cultures from which we originated; and all owing a debt of gratitude to those who came before and who established the foundations on which we continue to build a peaceful, prosperous democracy, full of harmony in our dynamic diversity."