

DE WARE TIJD – January 31, 2008

CANTO Annual Meeting concluded

DIGICEL TRINIDAD NOW ALSO IN CANTO BOARD

by: Rosita Leeflang

PARAMARIBO – With a *Pasar Malam*, *Naks Kawina en Dron* and the customary exchange of presents, the 24th annual meeting of CANTO was concluded on Tuesday evening on the Telesur premises at the van 't Hogerhuysstraat. For two days, the members reported on the previous year and plans have been partly outlined for the coming year. An important part was the election of the board. In this case, it concerned the re-election of the entire board who sought re-election save for one. The ninth member that was elected was the representative of Digicel Trinidad & Tobago, Julian Wilkins.

In talking to *de Ware Tijd*, CANTO Chair Leon Williams says that, for the first time, board elections were held where there was no need to vote. It is also the first time that all the big telecommunication providers in the region have a seat on the board. "This means that there is also competition within the board but it also means that there is better cooperation for the benefit of the Caribbean community," says Williams. In addition to Telesur and Digicel, representatives of Cable & Wireless, BTL-Belize, Etecsa-Cuba and TSTT-Trinidad have a seat on the board.

On the agenda was also the matter of deciding on the next location for the annual meeting of 2009. However, no decision has been made as yet since several countries are interested including Guyana and Antigua.

At the board meeting in April, this matter will be decided on. Incidentally, Williams could not stop talking about the work that was accomplished by Telesur general manager, Dirk Currie, and his team to organize this meeting. "I try to find the words to describe this. Telesur has elevated the annual meeting of CANTO to a whole new level with special attention to detail in combination with the hospitality of the Surinamer. Of all the meetings I have attended, this is the first time that I have experienced it like this."

During the *Pasar Malam*, the guests could enjoy the tasty dishes that Suriname has to offer. With small plates, they went back and forth the entire evening. The evening was concluded with the musical group *Just 4 Fun* who kept the guests on the dance floor for two hours.
