

# FEATURE

# FRIDAY

By Phillicia Aaron

Calypso is an art form that transforms. From being an introvert to a woman with an overflow of powerful expression, Kerine Williams-Figaro, better known as “Tiny”, has been a teacher at Bishop Anstey High School East since 2009. It was at this time she was encouraged by Mr Millien and Mr Bethelmy (former music teachers at the institution) to take part in Calypso professionally.

However, Mrs Williams-Figaro was always a calypso enthusiast from a tender age. She was highly motivated by the expression, passion and stage presence of Calypsonian ‘Singing Sandra’.



Additionally, Tiny is also inspired by performers such as Sheldon Nugget, Tigress and Lady Adana, to name a few. “Calypso has always been the voice of the people.

It will always be the voice of the people”, she says.

Calypso is an art which allows her to discuss social issues such as domestic violence, rape and crime. It is a platform that can be used to educate and motivate young people. Often, the genre is criticized and claimed to be “dying” however, Mrs Williams-Figaro explains that youth can become singers and songwriters while expressing themselves through the genre. Over the years, being a Calypsonian and a teacher came with a lot of challenges. It was hard for her to balance her professional job and being an entertainer. It was also difficult to keep up with deadlines and be well-rested.

Never the less, Tiny continues to be a beacon for change through her lyrics and contributing to the growth of the art form as long as she can.

