



SCOTIABANK (BARBADOS) LIMITED

June 12, 2025

Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025 Launched!

The 2025 edition of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch was launched today at the Bank's location in Warrens. Scotiabank has injected BBD\$80,000 into this year's Programme, which gained over 40 entrants – more than 20 in the traditional calypso category, and 16 across the bashment, sweet and power soca formats. After preliminary judging, the numbers were reduced to 24, with one reserve.

Speaking at the launch, Andrea Wells - Chief Cultural Officer, National Cultural Foundation (NCF) commented "The Junior Monarch stage is more than a performance space. It is a launchpad for dreams, a crucible for creativity and a celebration of everything that makes Barbadian culture powerful and unique."

Suzette Armoogam-Shah, Managing Director, Scotiabank Barbados emphasized the Bank's focus on helping young people reach their full potential. "For more than 25 years, we've partnered with the National Cultural Foundation to support this competition, and through it, the dreams of countless young Barbadian artistes. We are very pleased to support our young performers on their journey. They will bring fresh perspectives, boundless energy – we've seen it time and time again on all the stages – and bold ideas that will shape our cultural identity in years to come. It is our responsibility, collectively, to nurture and support their gifts, and through the Junior Monarch programme, we don't just find the next great calypsonian or soca artiste, we help develop well-rounded, confident and capable people."

The programme includes expert vocal training, workshops in songwriting, stagecraft, and this year once again, financial literacy sessions led by Scotiabank. These sessions are about empowering youth not only to excel artistically but to navigate life with resilience and confidence. We believe that creative brilliance and financial empowerment can -and should - go hand in hand.

At the Launch event, the 24 semi finalists also drew for their performance positions. This year, there will be two Scotiabank Junior Monarch tents - Saturday, June 15 and Saturday June 21 at the Queens Park Steel Shed. The Semifinals will be held on Sunday, June 29 at the, UWI, Cave Hill Campus. The Finals will be held on Saturday July 19 at Wildey Gymnasium, Sir Garfield Sobers Complex.

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Suzette Armoogam-Shah, Managing Director, Scotiabank during the Launch of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025



Andrea Wells – Chief Cultural Officer, NCF during the Launch of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025.



Reigning 2- time Scotiabank Junior Monarch Champion - Sakarah performs during the Launch for the 2025 edition of the Programme.



King K drew performance position #5 in the calypso category for the semi final of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025.



Ranisha draws for her performance position in the soca category for the semi final of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025.



Scotiabank presents its sponsorship cheque to the NCF while the semi finalists celebrate the launch of the Scotiabank Junior Monarch 2025.