



## THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

### MEDIA RELEASE

#### NGC Sanfest launches - Be Different, Be Y.O.U.

**19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

*"Our country does not just need doctors and engineers. We must see the commercial value of creative talent, sporting talent and the like, and support children if their interest and abilities lie in these areas. Difference can prove to be a tremendous advantage."* These were the words of NGC Director Mr. Kenneth Allum at the 2018 launch of NGC Sanfest on Thursday 13th September 2018 at the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts in San Fernando. The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) forged a relationship with The San Fernando Arts Council (SFAC) and the Sanfest Committee as the iconic arts festival's title sponsor in 2013.

This year is no different, with participants being challenged by the festival's theme to "Be Different, Be Y.O.U (Yourself, Originally Made, Unique)". Deviating from the traditional venue of the Creative Arts Centre, a difference in itself, the launch signified the beginning of what is to be an invigorated festival. This year's theme was also captured in remarks delivered by NGC Director Kenneth Allum. He noted that, "Our nation, two weeks ago, celebrated 56 years of independence. For more than half a century, we have had the freedom to define ourselves, to tell the world – this is what makes us who we are, what makes us unique among nations...In this context, the theme of NGC Sanfest 2018 – with its emphasis on being true to self, original and unique – becomes more than just a call to embrace difference at the individual level. It is an invitation to the entire country to see the culture that sets us apart as a thing of value."

The audience was treated to an entertaining video introducing the new Sanfest Committee, who are highly motivated and are finding innovative ways to raise the profile of this 48-year old festival. This year's festival pays homage to former SFAC member and chairman, Mr. Winston Bramble and soca superstar, Mr. Austin 'Super Blue' Lyons, both of whom have contributed to the rich cultural history of Trinidad and Tobago. Both gentlemen were the subject of rousing spoken word renditions by the 2017 Miss NGC Sanfest, Jillise Roberts of Naparima Girls' High School. The honourees were presented with awards for their unique and outstanding contributions to Trinidad and Tobago's cultural zeitgeist. Super Blue, to the crowd's delight, sang 'The 23rd Psalm', bringing a fitting end to the launch.

NGC understands the significance of its investment in youth development through the arts and proudly commits to supporting initiatives such as NGC Sanfest, which preserve the nation's national identity and cultural heritage. Preliminary competition kicks off this week and the full schedule of events can be accessed at <https://ngc.co.tt/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ngc-sanfest-syllabus-booklet-2018.pdf>.



*Mr. James Solomon, Chairman, San Fernando Arts Council (SFAC); Mr. Winston Bramble, 2018 NGC Sanfest Honouree; Mr. Austin 'Super Blue' Lyons, 2018 NGC Sanfest Honouree; Mr. Kenneth Allum, Director, NGC at the NGC Sanfest 2018 Launch.*



*Mr. Austin 'Super Blue' Lyons, one of the 2018 NGC Sanfest Honourees thanks Ms. Jillise Roberts of Naparima Girls' High School, last year's Miss NGC Sanfest, for her tribute.*

**For further information, please contact:**

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