



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

**MEDIA RELEASE
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NGC partners with TTCB to build national cricket from the ground up

September 1st, 2016

NGC and TTCB hosted a fun day on August 13 at the National Cricket Centre, Balmain Couva. The day was geared towards highlighting NGC's sponsorship of the Grassroots Development Programme and a skills-testing session, for the participants who participated in Phase One of the grassroots development programme. The skills testing included: drives, target bowling, underarm throwing and high catching. Also on hand were members of the national female and male senior teams. The day's activities culminated with a fun game amongst the top participants of the skills-testing activities.

NGC has been a sponsor of the Grassroots Development Programme for the past three years and has played an integral role in the development of players who have gone on to represent Trinidad and Tobago in various West Indies Cricket Board regional competitions. This year, the company gave TT\$400,000 to the programme. The rewards of sponsoring the Grassroots Development Programme were most evident in this year's West Indies Developmental Competitions, as the Trinidad and Tobago Under-15(50 overs title), Under-17 (50 overs titles) and Under-19(3-day title) teams captured regional titles.

The Grassroots Development Programme has been a major component of the TTCB's programmes since 2000. The programme is conducted throughout the seven cricket zones in Trinidad and two regions in the Tobago zone. The programme involves both boys and girl aged fifteen and younger. The programme's concentration on those age groups is to assist in the preparation of the zonal U-15 teams and hopefully creates an upsurge in the interest of the sport to what it once was.

This year's programme will be delivered in three phases; Phase One- skills training, Phase Two- game situations and Phase Three- expansion of the grassroots centres. The first phase was in May to June 2016, the second phase is from July to September 2016 and the third phase will be October to November 2016. National and senior coaches will lend their expertise and experience. Grassroots coaching, according to NGC Community Relations Officer, Alister Narinesingh, "helps unearth, identify and develop young cricketers, preparing them for the next level of competition. It ensures that these young cricket enthusiasts are exposed and are assisted in the development of the game whilst maintaining a strong presence in the psyche of our people."

He noted that the objectives of the Grassroots Development Programme included provision of continuity for the zonal under15 teams in terms of training and development and utilisation of higher-level coaches to develop a quality programme for the participants,

“We want the participants to be able to perform skills at a higher level,” noted one coach.

“National and senior coaches will have a greater opportunity to interact and develop cricketers at a younger age and with the implementation of the fitness testing component, participants will become fitter and stronger at a younger age.”

According to one participant who is part of the programme and attended the fun day: “NGC’s Grassroots cricket programme has changed my whole attitude to the game of cricket...I thought to be a good cricketer, you just had to hit the ball hard. Cricket is more than that. It is about strategy and maintaining fitness. I am proud to be part of the programme.”

For more information:

Lisa Burkett, Manager (Ag.)

Corporate Communications

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

lisa.burkett@ngc.co.tt