



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

# BEYOND THE PIPELINE

A Newsletter for Our Pipeline Communities



## Celebrating the Talent of Our Youth

What's  
Inside



STEELPAN



SANFEST



SPORT



FIRST PEOPLES



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**STEELPAN**

**SPORT**

**SANFEST**

## Corporate Profile

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC), established in August 1975, plays a key role in the development of Trinidad and Tobago's natural gas-based energy sector. NGC is an aggregator, transporter, distributor and seller of natural gas supplied in the local energy sector.

Its commercial activities are expanding into areas such as offshore oil and gas production; and in diverse, but related, energy businesses such as natural gas liquid (NGL) marketing; compressed natural gas (CNG) promotion; liquefied natural gas production, marketing and shipping; as well as upstream oil and gas development.

Currently, NGC's four principal subsidiaries comprise:

- Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL);
- National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (National Energy);
- NGC CNG Company Limited (NGC CNG); and
- Trinidad and Tobago NGL Limited (TTNGL).

The contribution made by NGC and its subsidiary companies to the national economy is substantial. Additionally, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, NGC plays a key role in national development. NGC's CSR portfolio is designed to influence a wide variety of fields for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. Its support ranges from developing CSR programmes to collaborating and supporting the initiatives of hundreds of non-governmental and community-based organisations through grants and contributions.

In this issue, you will read about how NGC's sponsorships have helped the continued development in arts and culture, sport and protection of the environment. This issue will give details on our support of festivals such as the NGC Sanfest and contributions to youth development via our Deeds of Covenant. You will also read about NGC CNG Company Limited's progress in developing and promoting CNG use.

For more information, please visit our website, [www.ngc.co.tt](http://www.ngc.co.tt), Facebook page, NGC Gasco News and Twitter page, NGC Gasco News TT.



## Building Capacity, Ensuring Sustainability – Titans of Steel

NGC is very proud of its contribution towards the development of Arts and Culture in Trinidad and Tobago, especially our national instrument, the steelpan. For years, NGC has supported our players, not just in their efforts to participate in Panorama, but to make steelpan music a year-round staple, encouraging youth development and community engagement. Currently, NGC is the title sponsor of three steelbands: NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra, NGC La Brea Nightingales Steel Orchestra, and NGC Steel Xplosion Steel Orchestra. We also support the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra. The sponsorship agreement with the steelbands is structured to ensure sustainability. It includes a wealth generation element that creates revenue for the bands; capacity-building programmes to provide training for the management of the bands; and a music literacy segment to train the band members in the reading of sheet music.

NGC Couva Joylanders has been excelling in all arenas since NGC became its title sponsor in 2012. Through its partnership with the company, the band opened its Pan Theatre, "House of Steel", in December 2012 and hosted its first concert at the venue in 2014. On Saturday 30th September 2017, NGC Couva Joylanders successfully hosted its fourth annual concert, "Titans of Steel – Celebration of a Nation". The Titans of Steel concert series is part of the band's Wealth Generation Project, aimed at improving the band's capacity to become self-sustaining and operating as a financially-viable business model. The well-patronised event featured other NGC-sponsored groups such as NGC Sweet Tassa and NGC Couva Police Youth Club. Other participants included the Laventille Rhythm Section, Tamana Pioneers, Newtown Playboyz and PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars.

In addition to its business of music and entertainment, the NGC Couva Joylanders is involved and devoted to the training and development of individuals within the Couva community and forming synergies with groups that



NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra members perform at "Titans of Steel" concert



NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra – a patron enjoying the music



NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra: playing with passion

are partnered with NGC. Through its Junior Pan Programme for example, the band has worked with other groups in the community such as the NGC-sponsored Couva Police Youth Club. The programmes developed are intended to promote the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to develop the musical abilities of others.

The primary and secondary schools, in addition to the business community, are all reached by these initiatives. Since forging a relationship with NGC as title sponsor, NGC Couva Joylanders has also successfully qualified for Panorama Finals from 2014 to 2017, an achievement they plan to maintain through its continued partnership with NGC.





Schools perform at Sanfest 2017



## Celebrating the Talent of Our Youth – NGC Sanfest 2017

The 2017 edition of NGC Sanfest was launched on 17th June 2017 at the Creative Arts Centre in San Fernando under the theme 'NGC Sanfest – Celebrating the Talent of our Youth'. This year the festival ran from 18th September to 8th November. The Preliminaries took place at various locations across Trinidad and, the Finals and Command Performances were held at the Creative Arts Centre and Naparima College, respectively.

To improve upon last year's festival, some changes were implemented for 2017 and beyond.

These included:

- Changes to the adjudication process
- Regular updates of photos and videos on Facebook
- Posting the NGC Sanfest syllabus online
- Increases in the monetary value of prizes

NGC Sanfest saw the participation of 81 primary and 50 secondary schools, a huge achievement for the festival. NGC sees this sponsorship as another initiative in its CSR portfolio which offers youth several opportunities to explore, nurture and develop their talent in visual, literary and performing arts.



The choirs were in full force at NGC Sanfest



Sacred Heart Girls at the Pan Ensemble Finals 2017





Students in training at NCPD

## Supporting Those Who Support Others – NGC’s Deeds of Covenant

Our traditional education system is ultimately geared towards producing well-balanced, independent, contributing members of society. However, some individuals require additional learning tools and special support to enable them to navigate the daily challenges. NGC has entered three-year “Deed of Covenant” agreements with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that support persons with special needs or provide other critical services to the community. The six institutions with which NGC has partnered for the period 2015 to 2017 are: The Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA); The Dyslexia Association; Swaha Inc.; Tobago Council for Handicapped Children; The Life Centre and The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD).

Ms. Beverly Beckles, CEO, NCPD explains, “NCPD is a non-governmental organisation that celebrated its 54th year in 2017. This organisation resulted from a need to rehabilitate individuals who were affected by polio in the 1950s. Today, NCPD has evolved due to a greater need in the country to assist persons with disabilities. NCPD receives an annual grant from the government which covers half of the operating budget. We also rely on funding from partnerships with the business community. NGC has been a great partner in helping us carry out our mandate.”



Work done by students at NCPD

The NCPD works to empower individuals by providing vocational training from age 14 and up. This training prepares them with skills for the labour market so that they can gain employment and move forward in life. All vocation training is certified. Students complete the National Craft Certificate by the Ministry of Education and move on to the next level, the Caribbean Vocational Qualification offered by National Training Agency. Additionally, the curriculum requires students to learn entrepreneurial skills,

computer literacy, music and sports. The curriculum is a holistic one that allows up to 250 individuals full-time while some students are accommodated on a part-time basis.

NGC is conscious of the need for this type of contractual arrangement in our society, and our investment in these NGOs that provide service and support to the most vulnerable in our country. We are very proud to support the work of these men and women.





Reforestation workers clearing shrubs and vines around trees

## Protecting Our Forests – NGC’s Reforestation Programme

In keeping with its “no net loss” policy, NGC has undertaken a reforestation programme. The company is applying this policy to the clearing of forested areas for its pipeline and construction projects, by reforesting an equivalent area to that cleared for project development.

To date, NGC has reforested approximately 267 hectares of degraded forest in the Grant’s Trace, Guapo, Mayaro, Moruga, Parrylands (WOMA) and Rio Claro areas, with a remaining 48 hectares to be to be replanted.

The planting phase of the reforestation programme is 75% complete. In August 2017, NGC began coordinating the maintenance phase of the reforested areas. To date a total of 132.25 hectares is being maintained, through the clearing and removal of shrubs and vines above and around the trees.

This activity reduces the mortality rate for plants by allowing them to grow stronger and healthier. During maintenance work, assessments were made to determine the survival rate of the trees, which in turn will assist in the future planning of the programme.

NGC’s Reforestation Programme is supported by the physical labour provided by the individuals living

in the respective communities and their in-depth knowledge of their own environments.

The Forestry Division also supports the programme through technical assistance from two retired forestry officers. Under the programme, the employed community members are provided with personal protective equipment such as hats; coveralls; gloves; boots; eye wear; cutlasses and sheaths. Additionally, brush cutters; files; water coolers; first aid and snake bite kits, as well as insect repellents are supplied. Safety orientations are conducted with a specific focus on best practices for reforestation work.

According to a reforestation employee from Moruga, Allison Morgan, “NGC’s Reforestation Programme is good for the community because it provides employment and I am contributing to rebuilding depleted forest. In the long term the community and environment would benefit.” Currently, NGC’s Reforestation Programme is planned, implemented and monitored by the Corporate Social Responsibility Department of the Corporate Communications Division. The internal management of NGC’s Reforestation Programme allows for financial prudence, community building, monitoring and management.



Aerial view of Grant’s Trace Forest Reserve



Young Cyphe tree





Santa Rosa First Peoples Community displays miniature house and cooking utensils

## Preserving National Heritage – NGC Group Commemorates First Peoples

According to Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez of the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community, “The First Peoples are the descendants of the original inhabitants of this land, Trinidad and Tobago.” Our national historical records show that Amerindian Peoples have existed in Trinidad for as many as 6,000 years before the arrival of Columbus and numbered at least 40,000 at the time of Spanish settlement in 1592. Trinidad was populated by several tribes, as it was a transit point in the Caribbean network of Amerindian trade and exchange. Amerindian tribes were referred to as Kalipuna, Carinepogoto, Carine and Arauca. Words and place names given by the First Peoples survive into the present: the Caroni and Oropouche rivers; the Tamana and Aripo mountains; places such as Arima; Paria; Arouca; Caura; Tunapuna; Tacarigua; Couva; Mucurapo; Chaguanas; Carapichaima; Guaico; Mayaro and Guayaguayare.

The community of First Peoples has been calling for greater recognition of their history and customs. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago approved a one-off public holiday, which was commemorated on Friday 13th October 2017.



Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez from the Santa Rosa First Peoples Community address employees of The NGC Group

The NGC Group honoured this historic occasion by hosting its own celebrations at NGC’s offices for employees. The NGC Group took the opportunity to have Chief Hernandez address staff at the company’s Head Office on the importance of the community to Trinidad and Tobago,



The Legacy of our First Peoples at NGC

stating that the history books were being re-written to correct the historical facts about the First Peoples. He also detailed some of the ambitions of the community, including the construction of a “real-life” village on 25 acres of land off the Arima Blanchisseuse Road and DNA testing to identify descendants of First Peoples.

During a weeklong celebration, The First Peoples paid homage to their ancestors via several cultural activities which included an ancestral journey to Moruga; a symposium for primary school children at the Aquatic Centre, Couva; a Book Launch at UTT and a Smoke Ceremony and Water Ritual. The week ended with a large celebration including a street parade through the streets of Arima and a craft market and exhibition.





Left: Mark Loquan, President, NGC and Hasely Crawford TC

## Invicta: The Crawford Legacy – NGC National Heroes Project

NGC launched its National Heroes Project on Friday 21st July 2017, at The UWI Inn and Conference Centre. This project seeks to recognise the achievements of nationals in the field of sport, art, culture and social improvement over the next few years and their contribution to national development.

For the first instalment of the project, NGC, in conjunction with The University of the West Indies (The UWI) curated the lifetime achievements of Olympic Gold medallist and Trinity Cross holder, Hasely Crawford, and highlighted his contribution to national development. The curation took the form of an exhibition at The UWI from 24th July to 18th August 2017, followed by a cross-country tour for six months coordinated by NALIS.

The exhibition visited the Rio Claro; Princes Town; Point Fortin; Couva; Arima and Port of Spain Libraries.

The physical exhibit will find a permanent home at the Hasely Crawford Stadium and plans are being finalised with The UWI for it to form part of the University's virtual museum. Heroes are found in every field of endeavour, and it is foreseen that the curation and exhibition achievements of the other icons will be approached in a manner that best represents that person's life.



Olympic Gold Medal



Trinity Cross

Hasely Crawford's Olympic Gold Medal and Trinity Cross



The Hasely Crawford Exhibition



## Creating Elite Athletes – NGC Drives the Youth Elite Programme

NGC has been supporting the sport of track and field for many years through its partnership with the National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago (NAAA). As title sponsor of the existing NGC/NAAA Junior Championship Games and the NGC/NAAA Juvenile Championship Games, it was natural for NGC to support the latest development, the NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme.

The NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme will facilitate the holistic development of young track and field athletes between the ages of 14 and 20 who have been identified as those with “podium-potential”. Ten athletes were selected to participate in the pilot programme for the period January to December 2017. They are Adel Coltrust; Akanni Hislop; Anya Akil; Avindale Smith; Jacob St. Clair; Jenea Spinks; Kashief King; Rae Ann Serville; Tyrell Edwards and Tyriq Horsford. Their selection was based on their performance in local, regional and international games in 2016. NGC’s sponsorship will cover funding associated with focussed training such as the provision of supplements, equipment, nutrition, massage therapy and transportation.

Mr. Kabir Hosein, Chief Administrative Officer of NAAATT said, “We want the athletes to excel in sport and to be model citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. We are trying to inculcate good values in sports because we know this is critical in developing the athlete. This programme has the potential to increase their ability to achieve maximum potential in the mid-term to long-term.” Mr. Hosein further stated that they have seen immediate success in performance at the Carifta Games, Pan American Junior Games and at the London World Games. Some other positive outcomes noticed in the athletes were improvements in discipline, increased levels of focus and their willingness to strive for better.

Mr. Hosein also said, “The buy-in from parents becomes easier when they learn



Standing at the back in white from left to right – Mr. Kabir Hosein, Chief Administrative Officer of NAAATT; Olympic Gold medalist and Trinity Cross holder, Hasely Crawford and Vice President of Operations, NGC, Mr. Ronald Adams with the recipients of the Youth Elite Programme at the launch on 12th July 2017.

that the programme covers nutritional support, academic support, injury prevention and treatment. We have started a series of workshops and parents were included because we see them as critical stakeholders. We are hoping to see high performance from athletes at the Olympics in 2020. The results from the upcoming Commonwealth Games in April 2018, the World Junior Champions held in 2018 and the Central American and Caribbean Games (CAC or CACGs) in 2019 will be used to gauge the performance of the athletes. It is envisioned that with detailed attention, and the opportunity to learn and grow, they will excel regionally and internationally.”

At the launch of the NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme NGC’s Vice President of Operations, Mr. Ronald Adams, who spoke on behalf of the company, stated that, “At NGC, through our various programmes, we love being involved with the development of our nation’s youth.” He also spoke to the response to pressure and likened the preparation of athletes for races/events to the preparation of NGC staff as they took on various challenges in their fields. Mr. Adams was very complimentary of the young athletes who were interviewed for a video presentation and noted that their communication skills were “impressive”, asking them to keep improving these skills alongside their athletic skills, as it was important when they ascend in the athletic world, to be able to represent themselves articulately and confidently.



NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme – Jenea Spinks



NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme – Tyrell Edwards





Curtis Mohammed, President NGC CNG (left) stands with four recipients of the first batch of CNG Fuel cards. Also in the picture is Wendy Rampersad, Financial Operations NGC, right and Anna Alisa Goindoo, Sales and Marketing Manager NGC CNG (second from right)

## CNG Incentives

NGC CNG Company Limited has started to distribute incentives to maxi taxi, taxi, and private school bus owners who have transitioned to CNG.

In September, several drivers who recently-converted their vehicles to operate on CNG as their fuel of choice, or bought CNG-powered vehicles, were presented with fuel cards by officials of NGC CNG. The company is mandated by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to accelerate the use of CNG as a vehicular fuel, as well as increase the number of CNG fuelling points across the country.

Earlier this year NGC CNG offered the following incentives to vehicle owners to encourage them to switch:

- \$5000 in free CNG for taxi drivers
- \$30,000 (large maxi) or \$20,000 (small maxi) in free CNG for maxi taxi drivers
- \$7,500 in free CNG to registered members of the Private School



Curtis Mohammed, President NGC CNG(left) explains the savings a taxi driver can benefit from with CNG Fuel card recipient Ashmeed Mohammed

Transport Association of Trinidad and Tobago (PSTATT)

- \$15,000 in free CNG to registered members of the Private School Transport Association of Trinidad and Tobago (PSTATT) who purchase an OEM CNG vehicle.

The free CNG is being administered via a Scotiabank fuel card. Drivers in receipt of the incentive simply have to fill up with CNG and then swipe their cards at CNG service stations. There are 13 serviceable CNG stations in the country, with 11 for the public and two for fleets.





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# Energy Brain Buster

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. NGC Couva Joylanders hosted its fourth annual concert "Titans of Steel" concert in 2017.
2. Sanfest is a national competition for teenagers from secondary schools which allows them an opportunity to showcase their skill and talent in the performing arts.
3. The theme for NGC Sanfest 2017 was "Celebrating the Talent of our Youth".
4. NGC has signed Deeds of Covenant with six (6) NGOs.
5. There are 267 hectares of degraded forest in the Grant Trace, Guapo, Mayaro, Moruga, Parrylands and Rio Claro area.
6. Members of NGC's Corporate Social Responsibility Department physically work on the reforestation programme.
7. The NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme is intended to facilitate the holistic development of young track and field athletes in Trinidad and Tobago.
8. It is mandatory for athletes to cover all training costs in the NGC/NAAA Youth Elite Programme.
9. The First Peoples public holiday will be held every year.
10. The first instalment of the National Heroes Project showcased the life and accomplishments of Olympic Gold medallist Hasely Crawford.

Answers: 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. True 6. False 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. True



## Photo of the Month

### NGC Reforestation Programme

Photography by Ken Hong Mack, Studioworks