



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Media Release

Developing their talent, securing their future

March 31st 2020

Scores of secondary school students from across Trinidad and Tobago gathered recently at the Dwight Yorke Stadium in Tobago to participate in the Secondary Schools' National Track and Field Championships, hosted by The Trinidad and Tobago Secondary Schools' Track and Field Association (TTSSTFA) and sponsored by The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC).

According to Joseph Brewster, President of the TTSSTFA, *"This championship has been the stepping stone for many of our current Olympians, for example, Keshorn Walcott, Michelle Lee Ahye, Jehue Gordon, and Machel Cedenio...the growth and attractiveness of our championships is evident in the number of schools and students that participate on an annual basis. Indeed, over 8000 athletes from over 130 secondary schools participate in zonal qualifiers with an average of 1200 students from 115 schools qualifying for the finals."*

NGC saw this secondary schools' track and field meet as a prime opportunity to continue to identify and develop those young persons with podium potential. Sport has been an axis of NGC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme since its inception, because of the clear value it adds to society. Not only does sport profit individuals and bring communities together, but the success of the athlete and associated international recognition raises the profile of the sport as well as the nation.

Track and field accounts for the greater part of Trinidad and Tobago's sporting success at the international level. In order to sustain and build on this success, investment in the next generation of athletes is crucial. For that reason, NGC has been directing significant investment attention to track and field.

NGC currently has its signature Right on Track programme, now in its 22nd year, which teaches the basics of run, jump and throw to primary school children. It assumes no prior knowledge of the sport and gives a comprehensive introduction to the fundamental skills involved in track and field disciplines. For some participants, this is where they discover their innate ability, and for the coaches this is where they identify athletic potential.

Also, NGC has been a main sponsor of The National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago (NAAATT) since 2013. With NGC's support, the organisation administers a number of valuable training programmes for promising track and field athletes. In 2017, the NAAA launched a Youth Elite Programme targeting athletes aged 15 to 20, who have excelled at regional and international competitions. The inductees in the programme are paired with specialist coaches for customised courses of training aimed at building their strengths and correcting their weaknesses. This new partnership with the TTSSTFA also provides another avenue for NGC to contribute to the development of track and field in Trinidad and Tobago.

According to NGC's Communications Manager, Lisa Burkett, *"With support of these programmes, NGC remains committed to identifying, developing and showcasing the track and field talent that is resident in our youth. The success stories of many of these athletes continue to inspire their younger counterparts to practice the discipline and resilience which is required to excel in sport, and even life in general, in order to become valuable members of our society. We continue to support our athletes as they aim to secure a spot on the world stage and grow our national pride."*

For more information:

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