



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited Media Release

Ten Thousand Persons Stand Tall with NGC and ALTA to promote literacy

June 4th 2020

On May 28th, 2020 an audience of over 10,000 persons tuned in on television to watch as The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) announced the Third honouree of the NGC Above and Beyond Programme. Launched in 2017 this Programme seeks to recognize those individuals or groups who have excelled in their profession, and who also, through extraordinary efforts, contributed to or inspired others in society to excel.

NGC is pleased to honour ALTA, our 2020 inductee, and its Stand Tall Programme. NGC shares with ALTA the recognition that literacy is key to removing barriers and providing a path to success for all members of society. ALTA joins those whose extraordinary contributions and humanitarian efforts have made an indelible impact on Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Paula Lucie-Smith, founder and CEO of ALTA, “Selecting ALTA for this award shows that NGC is thinking above and beyond the norm, switching from honouring an individual of world renown in its first year to a whole group of persons who are largely unnoticed – since those with low literacy are on the margins of society, of employment, of life. This award brings them centre stage in the best possible way...”.

Mark Loquan, President of NGC, also proudly shared his sentiments on this year’s honouree, “Through the Above and Beyond Programme we continue to recognize and preserve the legacies of achievers and national contributors for future generations. Our relationship with ALTA has given us a window into the impact and relevance of ALTA’s work, and at the same time, insight into the work still to be done – work which has positive, long-term socioeconomic implications for Trinidad and Tobago. As a company heavily invested in sustainability, NGC believes that work **must** continue. Accordingly, we are partnering to highlight some of ALTA’s major projects for 2020.”

These projects include:

- ALTA Online- a virtual classroom space that facilitates a systematic course of instruction via a series of interactive activities to improve reading.
- Spelling Instruction in Schools- producing the ALTA Phonics chart/poster and supplying these to schools as well as ALTA Spelling Dictionaries.

- I Am ALTA – an anti-stigma campaign to sensitize the public and increase awareness of the importance of literacy using success stories of its students and its tutors.

The first honouree of NGC's Above and Beyond was Trinidad and Tobago's first Olympic Gold Medalist, Hasely Crawford, TC; a man who continues to play an active role in the development of track and field in Trinidad and Tobago. In its second installment, a multi-faceted cultural icon was awarded posthumously, Pat Bishop, TC, who was musical director of the Lydian choir and Lydian steel orchestra; an arranger for several steelbands; an artist; an environmentalist and a cultural advocate.

For 2020 NGC stands tall in support of ALTA and is pleased to add them to the list of those recognized for going above and beyond for the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

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