



**The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited**  
**Media Release**  
**NGC sponsors La Brea Economic Development Day 2024**

**August 28, 2024**

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) demonstrated its unrelenting commitment to support the development of its fence line communities, through sponsorship of the La Brea Economic Development Day 2024.

NGC partnered with the Ministry of Sport and Community Development (MSCD) in 2021 to support the La Brea Committee for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD). Born out of the National Policy on Sustainable Community Development, the La Brea CSCD aims to foster multi-sectoral development through a bottom-up approach, allowing the community to actively lead and directly participate in its own development.

Since its inception, this committee – which has direct representation from the community - has spearheaded several initiatives aimed at creating economic opportunities for residents of La Brea. In 2023, the Committee came together to conceptualise and implement the La Brea Economic Development Day.

The La Brea Economic Development Day activities were held on two days in 2024:

- **July 5<sup>th</sup> 2024** – One of the main features was the Business Pitch Competition, which saw entrepreneurs from La Brea presenting business ideas with the goal of winning cash prizes to help kickstart their businesses. The competition was coordinated by the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) and adjudicated by a panel of qualified judges in five categories:
  - Environment/Sustainable Ecosystems/Technology
  - Food and Agriculture
  - Light Manufacturing
  - Tourism
  - Youth Entrepreneurship
- **July 10<sup>th</sup> 2024** – The main event day included an official opening ceremony at which the winners of the Business Pitch Competition were announced. There was also a skills bank registration exercise and a job readiness workshop, both conducted by professional recruitment firm, Eve Anderson and Associates. This element of the initiative was designed to help connect businesses operating in La Brea with job seekers who possess relevant experience and qualifications. The workshop served to provide fundamental training such as resume writing, interview preparation and how to navigate the work environment.

The opportunity was also provided for small and micro entrepreneurs from La Brea to exhibit and sell their products and services throughout the event space. These included food and beverage suppliers; agricultural products; personal care products; and health and nutrition services. Organisations including the Trinidad and Tobago Police Force and The University of the West Indies used the event to target potential recruits.

NGC recognised the Economic Development Day’s potential to open doors for residents, as it showcased their skills and ideas and strengthen relationships among the local business community.

At the opening of the La Brea Economic Development Day activities, Mr. Dan Martineau - Director NGC - gave remarks, stating, “We appreciate that a bottom-up approach to development - which not only takes community needs into account, but actively involves the community in project design and execution - can be the most effective way to achieve growth and success. Heavy community involvement in the planning and implementation of development initiatives makes projects more relevant to the community’s needs, and no doubt, more impactful as a result.”

NGC has been investing in La Brea over many years, most notably through its work with the NGC La Brea Nightingales Steel Orchestra, the La Brea Police Youth Club and the Inspire-to-Achieve (I2A) education programme. The company looks forward to further collaboration with the MSCD and the La Brea CSCD for the enhancement of the La Brea community.



Photo 1 –

Dan Martineau, Director, NGC, delivered remarks at opening ceremony of the La Brea Economic Development Day 2024.



Photo 2 –

(L to R) Jillon Lewis, Councillor, Brighton/Vessigny; Ryssa Brathwaite, Social Performance and Social Investment Adviser, Shell Trinidad and Tobago Limited; Gabre McTair, Director, Physical Education and Sport, Ministry of Sport and Community Development; Bryan Francis, Business Pitch Competitor, Environment/Sustainable Ecosystems/Technology; Shemilla Dickson, Winner, Food and Agriculture; Shimone Anthony, Winner, Youth Entrepreneurship; The Honourable Stephen Mc Clashie, Minister of Labour and Member of Parliament for La Brea; Reiann Phillip, Winner, Environment/Sustainable Ecosystems/Technology; Jamie Thorpe, Winner, Light Manufacturing; Renrick Campbell, Chairman, La Brea Committee for Sustainable Community Development; Dan Martineau, Director, NGC; Taharqa Obika, Coordinator, Project Implementation Unit at the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited

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