



**The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
Media Release**

NGC donates lumber to National Centre for Persons with Disabilities

November 8th 2024

In a demonstration of its ongoing sustainability commitment, The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) donated lumber to the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD) for use in its woodworking and craft programme. The lumber was the by-product of trees cleared during the Cascadura Phase I construction project, which facilitates onshore gas production from the Ortoire Block in South Trinidad. First gas was delivered in September 2023.

NGC operates under a 'no net loss' principle, which commits the company to redress any forest loss unavoidably incurred during its pipeline construction activities. The company's efforts have centred on restoration of degraded forest through its reforestation programme for major pipeline builds - including the Cross Island Pipeline - and its continuation, the 'Beyond 315' initiative.

While delivering the Cascadura project, the company saw an opportunity to extend the life of felled trees by converting them into useful lumber, which could in turn be used to generate income.

NGC has a longstanding relationship with the NCPD, and identified the organisation's woodworking and craft programme as an ideal avenue to transform a resource that would have otherwise been wasted into a source of revenue. Items produced through the NCPD's programme are sold to generate income for the centre, which seeks to rehabilitate and empower persons with disabilities through training, advocacy and other interventions.

The trees were removed from the project site with the assistance of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, with whom NGC has worked closely in the past. They helped identify the trees of value to be removed, which included cedar, mahogany and mahoe, among other indigenous forest species. The trees were then processed into lumber by a local sawmill within the project site, using solely community labour.

Commenting on the donation, NGC's acting President Edmund Subryan explained: "We at NGC are constantly seeking sustainable and impactful ways to create value from our business. The decision to produce lumber from felled trees has not only helped us reduce our environmental footprint, but also allowed us to create job opportunities within our communities and support the work of an organisation that is building a more inclusive society. We are extremely gratified that we can support so much good with this one contribution."



Photo 1 (L to R): Alister Narinesingh - Social Responsibility Officer II, NGC and Myles Lewis - Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC, handed over the donated lumber to Clarence Shepherd - Woodwork Instructor, NCPD and Ricardo Rampaul- Chief Operating Officer, NCDP



Photo 2 – The lumber donated by NGC will be used by the NCDP in its woodworking and craft programme.



Photo 3 - Alister Narinesingh - Social Responsibility Officer II, NGC (1st from the left) and Myles Lewis - Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC (2nd from the right, behind) with the students and staff of the NCPD's Woodwork Skill Training Department.

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