



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

**Illumination of La Savanne Recreation Grounds**

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**La Savanne Recreation Grounds**



THE NGC GROUP OF COMPANIES

**Remarks by**

**Ronald Adams, Vice President, Gas Transmission and Distribution, NGC**

The Honourable Brigadier General, Retired, Ancil Antoine, Minister of Public Utilities

Senator the Honourable Clarence Rambharat, Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

Mr. Rushton Paray, Member of Parliament for Mayaro

Mr. Hazarie Ramdeen, Chairman of the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation

Mr. Keith Sirju, Chairman of Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, T&TEC

Mr. Kryon James, Councillor for Mayaro/Guayaguayare

Mr. Kelvin Ramsook, General Manager, T&TEC

Representatives of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, NGC

Representatives of T&TEC, the Regional Corporation, and the various community interest

groups present this evening

Community Residents

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening,

In the past few months, there have been some concerns raised about the Trinidad and Tobago economy, both in the business sector and in private life. With falling gas prices and speculation about the US dollar, it might be easy to become pessimistic, and to say that these are dark times.

But we at NGC say there is no such thing as “dark times”. We are veterans of the energy industry, and our 40-plus years of experience have taught us that the energy sector is volatile. There are fluctuations in the prices of oil and gas as well as gas-based commodities. Markets come and go, and reserves rise and fall. This is nothing new to us, and, as it has every time, the Trinidad and Tobago energy and natural gas sector will weather the storm and emerge un-battered.

Our experience has also taught us that in times of economic constraint, the most important thing to focus on is human capital, and for us, as a national company, that means the Trinidad and Tobago community. In fact, the same applies even when the economy is thriving.

This is why NGC has always focused so much of its energy on its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. For more than 25 years we have made substantial contributions, both in terms of financial assistance and practical support and expertise. We have made a tangible difference in areas that include local, regional and international sport; cultural and artistic expression; youth development and job creation; environmental awareness; and community development.

As a state-owned company, with over 1,000 km of natural gas pipelines spanning both islands, we consider the entire country our neighbourhood, but we pay particular attention

to communities that are most impacted by our infrastructure and our operations. After all, these are the people who interact with our staff daily, and who have been supportive of our many interventions.

The community of Mayaro/Guayaguayare/Rio Claro is one such community. It has been a fenceline neighbour, not just to us, but to almost every operator in the industry since the first platforms were erected off the south-east coast. The community has been a valuable source of human capital and has supported the operations of many companies by providing food, lodging, practical services and recreation.

For this reason, NGC has made effort introduce initiatives from our Corporate Social Responsibility programme in this community. Among many other initiatives, some of our most recent programmes include the refurbishment of the Mafeking Community Centre and the Navet, Guayaguayare, Shell and Kernaham recreation grounds.

When the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation approached NGC for help in refurbishing the La Savanne ground, we were naturally enthusiastic to participate. In fulfilling its CSR commitments to communities, NGC frequently liaises with other national and local government agencies and other stakeholders. In this instance, NGC spearheaded the negotiations with T&TEC to provide the lighting system needed, through their public lighting programme. NGC is proud to have sponsored the installation of the lights at this recreation ground.

With this successfully completed, the recreation ground is now safer and more comfortable to use both by day and night. We believe that what NGC, and all other participants in this project have achieved is not just the enhancement of a recreation ground, but the provision

of an opportunity for this community to come together to socialise, interact, and improve its wellness.

When I began speaking, I mentioned the notion held by some people that Trinidad and Tobago is facing dark times. Again, I say, far from it. Just as we bring light to one community, there are communities all over the country that are holding fast to the values that keep this country lit. And that is why we cannot fail.

I would like to thank our partners in this venture, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission, as well as the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation

I want to thank the members of the Corporation, and the residents of this and neighbouring communities, not just for supporting us during the period of construction, but also for the goodwill that you have extended to us over the years.

Thank you all.