



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

NGC T20 Cricket Media Launch

Thursday 24th March 2016

National Cricket Centre

Remarks by

Mr. Ronald Adams, Vice President, Gas Transmission and Distribution, NGC



Mr. Suruj Ragoonath, CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Dr. Allen Sammy, 1st VP of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Mr. Patrick Rampersad, 2nd VP of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board and Chairman of the National League Committee

Ms. Christine Punnett, Acting Manager, Corporate Communications of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Representatives of NGC

Other Representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Representatives from participating Teams

Cricketers

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning,

A good morning to all, and many thanks for joining us as we get set to launch the fifth edition of the NGC T20 Cricket Festival.

Being ever mindful of the need for prudent spending in these taxing times, we at the NGC Group have had to critically assess the contributions made through our Corporate Social Responsibility programme, to ensure that the causes we support have purpose, have relevance and have impact. Ultimately, we are focusing on investments that promise gainful future returns. This T20 Festival is one of the initiatives that we believe is worth the investment, as it stands to profit our country on many levels.

NGC's CSR programme was built around the focus areas of sport; cultural and artistic expression; youth development and job creation; environmental awareness; and community development. While most of our contributions fall squarely within one of those categories, this tournament simultaneously engages almost all of the areas.

This festival is first and foremost an investment in Sport. Trinidad and Tobago has over the years produced some legendary players, world-renowned for their athleticism, artistry and entertainment value. As a team we are formidable, but we cannot rest on our laurels. This is *our* game to lose, and we need to continue investing in the sport to ensure we maintain the calibre of cricket for which we are internationally admired. Insofar as competition challenges us to push past our limits and better our bests, tournaments like these allow players to grow in ability and reputation. We trust that this edition of the Festival will be keenly contested and see promising new talent brought to the fore.

Secondly, this is an investment in community development. Sport is a powerful tool for building a sense of community, and national pride. Nothing quite unites us as a people like the vicarious thrills of victory and commiseration in defeat. We can all attest to the accelerated heartbeats and frenzied butterflies we experienced when the West Indies faced its first opponents in the World T20 currently underway in India – when our team takes the field, we share every elemental emotion. And this applies to all levels of competition. The NGC T20 Festival not only brings together teams from throughout the country, but also assembles their bands of supporters. The Festival therefore provides an opportunity for people to come together, to lay aside differences in communal support of neighbours and friends, and to ultimately grow as civic-minded citizens.

On another level, the NGC T20 Festival is an investment in youth development and job creation. For most of us, cricket is a beloved pastime. However, given the thriving commercial industry that has grown around the sport, and especially around the T20 format, cricket can be a viable career option for many youth. This requires dedicated play and exposure at the professional level, which are facilitated by events such as this one. By allowing players the opportunity to showcase their talents on a national stage, this tournament can empower them to advance their careers in and generate sustainable livelihoods from cricket. Moreover, it will not just benefit the sport and its players, but will create business opportunities for vendors, suppliers and entrepreneurs in the area.

In sum, the NGC T20 Cricket Festival is about growing the sport, building communities and creating opportunities for our people. These noble objectives make the Festival a perfect fit for our support, and we are proud to stand as title sponsors for yet another year.

As I close, on behalf of the NGC Group, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the role of the TTCB in keeping our national teams viable in an increasingly competitive industry; we wish them every success in the execution of this year's Festival. We also wish participating teams the best of luck, and urge the public to come out in support of our local talent. The Festival is accessible, affordable and promises to be supremely entertaining.

I thank you.