



**THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED (NGC)**

**NGC NAAA Junior Championships**

**Venue: Dwight York Stadium, Tobago**

**Date: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Time: 10:00am**

**Remarks by Mr Steve Ramlochan**

-Senator the Honourable Mr Orville London, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly

-Assemblyman Huey Cadette, Secretary of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport

-Assemblyman Jomo Pitt, Assistant Secretary of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport

-Assemblyman Joel Jack, Secretary of Finance and Enterprise Development

-Assemblyman Claudia Groome-Duke, Secretary of Health and Social Services

-Assemblyman Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary of Tourism and Transportation

- Councillor Dr Denise Tsoisfatt-Angus, Secretary of Community Development and Culture
  - Ms Vanassa Cutting-Thomas, Former Clerk of the Tobago House of Assembly
  - Mr Garth Nichols, President of the Tobago Athletic Committee
  - Mr Xavier King, Coordinator of the Secondary Schools Zone
  - Executive Members of the NAAA
  - Members and Staff of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
  - Members of the Media
  - Ladies and Gentlemen
- Good Morning,

You know what is the greatest thing about the NAAAs Junior Championships? It shows us young Trinidad and Tobago at its best. On

the track and in the field, we get to see you giving 110 percent; we see your team spirit; we see you pushing against your limits to achieve victory; and, that is the image of a young T&T that needs to be seen.

Right now, the youth are being challenged. On social media and in the news we see images that portray young people in a negative light. I know it is sometimes not easy being a young person in the best of conditions. And these are not the best conditions in our society right now.

Despite all that, you are here. You are, both literally and figuratively, putting your best foot forward. And this is a good day for track and field. It is good because we can all look forward to some amazing action on the track, and because we know that T&T still has a national resource of progressive young people who can move the country forward, on and off the field.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2016 marks the third year that NGC has partnered with the NAAAs for the Championship Games and we are happier than ever to work with this organisation. We recognise the high

standard of the championships and their importance to both youth development and athletics in T&T. Because of this, we have extended our sponsorship to include the development of NAAAs itself. NGC's support will strengthen the NAAAs in areas like organisational development and training. Our goal is to make NAAAs better able to serve our current and next generation athletes.

These efforts are part of a bigger legacy. For decades, NGC has been a proud supporter of athletics. Our relationship with track and field goes as far as one of our most famous employees – Olympian and national hero, Hasely Crawford, who is a former Head of Community Relations at NGC. One of the initiatives he spearheaded during his tenure is the NGC Right on Track programme. A stand-out example of programmes of its kind in the region, NGC Right on Track provides for the athletic development of T&T's youth using the most up to date, science-based methods.

In addition, NGC has been a supporter of national athletics through its sponsorship of the Ministry of Education's Primary Schools' Track

and Field Games, as well as regional athletics through the CARIFTA Games.

But sport is just one area in which NGC contributes to the welfare of the nation. These efforts are organized under our Corporate Social Responsibility programme. Through our CSR, we meet the mandate of a truly national company, supporting the arts and culture, providing development opportunities and protecting the environment. Today's NAAAs Junior Championships are an outstanding example of the kind of activities NGC supports through our CSR programme.

In closing, I would like to say to all the competitors taking part in today's games, we look forward to seeing some of your best performances. Show us what you can do. And even if you do not win, let us see your sportsmanship and team work. Ultimately, these are the qualities that will define you best.

To the NAAAs, congratulations on yet another successful championship games, we know that you will continue to refine these events for the benefit of athletics – and athletes – in Trinidad and

Tobago. NGC is pleased to partner with you on this critical mission and look forward to seeing you become an even more powerful force in the region for track and field.

To all those who have taken the time to come and be a part of the Junior Championships, we appreciate your support. T&T needs more people such as you to come out and encourage our young athletes. Let us celebrate them on the journey to success as much as we celebrate them when they have succeeded.

Thank you.