



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

NGC/ Sagicor Open Championships

Venue: Hasely Crawford Stadium

Date: June 25th, 2016

Time: 2:30pm

Remarks by Mr Ronald Adams, VP- Gas Transmission and Distribution

- The Honourable Mr Daryll Smith, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs
 - Mr Ephraim Serrette, President, NAAA
 - Mr Brian Lewis, President, Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee
 - Other officials from the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
 - Executive Members of the NAAA
 - Members and Staff of Sagicor Life, Trinidad and Tobago
 - Members and Staff of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
 - Members of the Media
 - Athletes
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
- Good Afternoon,

We are here today to witness the best of the best, the highest level of track and field in Trinidad and Tobago. What began in early June with our fledgling athletes at the beginning of their journey at the Juvenile Championships, and continued with the next generation of track and field elite at the Junior Championships, has led to these final two days, the Open Championships. Today and tomorrow, the national audience will be treated to performances by T&T's world-class athletes, talented men and women who are the product of years of training, ambition and determination to win.

That example of excellence is one of the greatest values of competitive sports. Earlier this year the Caribbean was re-energised by the performance of the West Indies cricket teams at the ICC World T20. As a region we have been facing persistent economic and social challenges, and the outlook for 2016 does not appear particularly bright. But in the midst of these challenges the West Indies stood up. Our under 19s, women and men bested the competition with the odds against them. And they did it in spectacular fashion. In doing so, they gave us a much

needed victory, a victory of the spirit. That is what sports can do. That is the gift our athletes can give to society.

When we see these heroes on the field, in some distant land, heroes who look like us and share our culture, faces fixed with determination, competing against people from all over the world, it shows us that we can compete. We can fight for what we want. When we see them fall but rise back up, it shows us that we can face our challenges and continue to move forward. When we see them victorious, it shows us that with enough effort, enough heart, winning is possible for us.

Whether in our life goals, occupation, relationships, or even our behaviour as citizens, we can strive to emulate the spirit of excellence on display at events such as the Open Championships.

NGC is pleased to continue its partnership with the National Association of Athletics Administrations with which we have had a long and successful relationship for the development of track and field.

In little more than a month the 2016 Summer Olympics will be upon us in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At that event, the same spirit of excellence that our athletes will show us today will be on display for the entire world to see. As we celebrate our young women and men, our representatives, at home and abroad, let us also seek to live in alignment with that spirit. Let us all show the kind of competitive excellence our society needs to succeed.

On behalf of NGC, I wish all success to our competitors at the Open Championships. I congratulate NAAA for hosting yet another successful championship games. It has been quite a month. And I hope everyone viewing these games has a most enjoyable time.

Thank you.