



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

**NGC Sanfest Command Performance 2016 -
Secondary Schools**

November 23, 2016

It's often bemoaned that we are dealing with a lost generation. However, the young people who are featured today, and all those who have passed through NGC Sanfest, prove that this cannot be the case. These students are creative, dynamic, outgoing and positive. They have big dreams and the abilities to make those dreams a reality.

We at NGC believe in the transformative power of the Arts and have, therefore, always made it a cornerstone of our social investment programme. Clearly, we share this belief with the San Fernando Arts Council and the NGC Sanfest Committee, whose goal has been to continuously expand the festival and make it accessible to even more students. Over its lifetime, NGC Sanfest has grown from a competition within one educational district to one that is open to all primary and secondary schools within Trinidad and Tobago. Further, new elements and categories have been introduced which make the festival an even more valuable instrument for developing our young people.

One example of the way NGC Sanfest drives growth and transformation is the Mr. and Miss NGC Sanfest Teen Talent Competition which has provided a unique vehicle for the holistic development of young men and women. The competitors receive extensive training and guidance over the course of the competition. This feedback, ultimately, helps them develop into the type of dynamic and confident individuals who become positive role models and leaders in their society. It almost goes without saying that the grace to accept criticism and the willingness to work at improving are some of the hallmarks of a successful individual.

The festival also helps develop this generation by giving them a platform to showcase their talents to the entire nation. A festival such as this one offers them an opportunity to be cheered on by their parents and their peers and to take pride in their accomplishments. It is also a mark of success for the teachers who usher and prepare the students for the festival and sometimes work tirelessly to ensure the various schools are represented. This is a feeling that each child deserves to know he or she has the support and encouragement and I'm sure that parents and teachers alike appreciate the chance to see their young charges' talents on display.

Programmes such as this one, which offer young people a reason to work hard and an opportunity to feel pride in the fruits of that labour play an important role in developing our nation's youth. We therefore, thank all those who make this event possible - the parents, teachers and principals, the San Fernando Arts Council, the NGC Sanfest Committee and all the volunteers and workers. In particular, I wish to add my recognition of the seminal role played by Mr. James Lee Wah in the formation of both the Creative Arts Centre and NGC Sanfest.

And, of course, I wish to commend all our young competitors who prove that their generation is not lost but, rather is full of dynamic and talented individuals who will go on to shape our future.