



**THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED**

**Media Release**

**The NGC-sponsored Trinidad & Tobago Sweet Tassa Band launches Tassa Academy**

**April 7<sup>th</sup> 2017**

'Our sponsor – NGC – guided us in the right direction through its unique Capacity-Building Programme. The Programme has helped us develop and strengthen our skillset to be able to adapt and thrive in this fast-changing world. I have taught at many primary and secondary schools, organisations nationally and internationally, and held master classes at universities in the United States. As time went by, I always had a vision to extend my knowledge (on tassa drumming) into an academy... a place for persons to come and learn about the tassa drumming art form... to occupy their time and keep them out of trouble. Now, I have decided to create my legacy by opening this academy to help persons develop their interest and talent in this art form.' These were the words of founder and manager of the NGC T&T Sweet Tassa Band Lenny Kumar, at the launch of Trinidad and Tobago's first-ever Tassa Academy.

The Academy's main mission is to tutor persons interested in learning tassa drumming and is located at Mt Stewart Village, Palmyra. NGC has sponsored this dynamic group since 2014. The launch of the Tassa Academy is another first for this artistic group as their all-female band is also the first all-female tassa group in Trinidad and Tobago. The Band's list of accolades is quite lengthy and includes awards from recognised institutions both locally and abroad. Most notably, in 2016 the all-female band walked away with 12 silver medals after participating in the prestigious World Championships of the Performing Arts (WCOPA) competition.

NGC's Head Community Relations, Wynda Chandler, stated her satisfaction with the group's new venture declaring that, "When its proposal for sponsorship was first received by NGC, it was clear that the group was way ahead of others of its kind in terms of organisation, experience and commitment as a business." She was particularly pleased to learn that Trinidad & Tobago Sweet Tassa had previously collaborated with Birdsong and Siparia Deltones steel orchestras and is currently conducting classes in Carapichaima West Secondary and Pleasantville East Secondary schools. Some of the students were present at the event to showcase their new skills to the thrill of their parents and teachers.

Classes at the Academy are open to all age-groups, enrolment is absolutely free and Mr. Kumar is working towards the school being accredited.

**For further information please contact:**

**Lisa M. Burkett –Manager, Corporate Communications  
The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC)  
Orinoco Drive, Point Lisas Industrial Estate, Couva.  
Email: [Lisa.Burkett@ngc.co.tt](mailto:Lisa.Burkett@ngc.co.tt)**



Standing from Left: NGC's Community Relations Officer, Alister Narinesingh along with NGC's Head Community Relations, Ms. Wynda Chandler and Founder and Manager of the Band, Mr, Lenny Kumar pose for a picture with members of the NGC-sponsored T&T Sweet Tassa Band.



Members of the NGC-sponsored T&T Sweet Tassa Band smile for the cameras.