



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

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Building Strong Children – NGC committed to Police Youth Clubs**

**July 10<sup>th</sup> 2017**

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) announced the launch of its sponsorship of the Mayaro Police Youth Club (PYC), and the continued sponsorship of four other PYCs namely Laventille Road, Couva, Penal and La Brea, at an event held on Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Academy. Approximately 300 children attended the event as well as senior officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS).

PYCs fall under the jurisdiction of the Community Policing Secretariat, which is an arm of the TTPS. Each sponsored club is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amongst NGC, the respective Police Youth Club and the TTPS. NGC has been sponsoring PYCs since 2013 as the Company sees the activities which are offered through these PYCs as a mean of exposing youth to various positive avenues for development and self-expression. Programmes offered by these PYCs focus on areas such as education support, sport, personal development, arts and culture, and social activities. These programmes act as a means of engaging the youth membership of the clubs and seek to cultivate positive attitudes and relationships. Seen as an anti-crime initiative by the TTPS, focus is also placed on the equipping of the clubs' leaders with management skills via such training programmes as Capacity Building and the introduction of systems to promote transparency and accountability. The involvement of civil society is encouraged as parents are invited to join the PYC Management Teams.

Speaking on behalf of NGC, Senior Manager Engineering and Construction Services, Ernest Esdelle noted that NGC's involvement with the Police Youth Clubs arose out of the conviction that it is easier to build strong children than to fix broken adults. "It is easier to try to positively influence the future of these children and the future of the nation by equipping young people with the tools they will need to thrive. In so doing, we hope they in turn will also be contributing to building our nation." He thanked the TTPS for its recognition of the importance of community programmes, especially those that impact some of society's most vulnerable members.

Mr. Esdelle also told the young people gathered, that at this point in their lives, this is where they need to be. "You have people available to you, to teach you, listen to you, encourage you, and support you. There are friends to be made, and new skills to be learned. Take advantage of every single moment; because believe me when I say that in years to come you will look back and thank your younger selves for the decision you made to give it your all." He encouraged them to look to the PYCS as a support mechanism as they manoeuvre through the challenges of being a youth in today's society.

NGC will be collaborating with the administrators to employ new strategies that will increase the impact of the Clubs. The strategies will further the cause of positive change at the individual and community levels. One of these is the assignment of community liaison officers, to strengthen the ties between the PYCs and the community. NGC also intends to develop and apply tracking and measuring systems that will allow the Company's CSR team to quantitatively determine the impact of several programmes upon participants.



From L to R: Ernest Esdelle, Senior Manager, Engineering and Construction Services, NGC; Ms. Deborah Neemar- Tracey, Director Human Resources, TTPS; Ms. Lisa Burkett- Manager, Corporate Communications, NGC; Mr. Sacenarine Mahabir- ACP Community Relations, TTPS; Mr. Stephen Williams, Commissioner of Police (Ag.), TTPS; Mrs. Erla Christopher, DCP Administration ( Ag.), TTPS; Mr. Surajdeen Persad ACP, Central Division, TTPS and members of the Mayaro, Laventille Road, La Brea, Couva and Penal Police Youth Clubs.



Members of Penal PYC perform at the event

**For further information, please contact:**

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