



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of the NGC Youth Elite Programme

July 12th 2017

On Wednesday 12th July 2017, representatives of the track and field fraternity gathered at the Head Office of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) on the Point Lisas Industrial Estate, to launch the NGC Youth Elite Programme. The NGC Youth Elite Programme is intended to facilitate the holistic development of young track and field athletes between the ages of 14 and 20 who have been identified as those with 'podium-potential' by 2024. These athletes were selected based on their performance in local, regional and international games in 2016. It is envisioned that with detailed attention, and the opportunity to learn and grow, they will excel regionally and internationally.

NGC has partnered with NAAA over a number of years in order to refine the sport of track and field nationally. As title sponsor of the NGC/NAAA Junior Championship Games and the NGC/NAAA Juvenile Championship Games, The Company is proud to provide a forum for many young athletes to showcase their skills and talents, while gaining recognition in the track and field milieu. The launch of this NGC Youth Elite Programme is a further step in the development of these juniors toward a rewarding career in track and field.

This partnership is aligned with our goal of youth development as we seek to provide constructive avenues for our youth to explore their talent. NGC's resident track and field specialist, former Head Community Relations, His Excellency Hasely Crawford, our nation's first Olympic Gold Medallist, was instrumental in crafting this partnership as well as NGC's signature Right on Track Coaching Caravan which was developed under his guidance in 1999.

This programme teaches track and field skills to primary and secondary school level children, which facilitates heightened interest in the sport at the individual and national level. It has also been implemented regionally. As such, we are paving the way for young track and field talent to be identified at an early stage and developed to their full potential.

Representatives who were in attendance included members of the NGC's Executive Team and NAAA, as well as parents of the elite athletes and the stars of the event, the athletes themselves. According to NGC's Vice President of Operations, Mr. Ronald Adams, who spoke on behalf of the Company "at NGC, through our various programmes, we love being involved with the development of our nation's youth." He also spoke to the response to pressure and likened the preparation of athletes for races/events to the preparation of NGC staff as they took on various challenges in their fields.

Mr. Adams was very complimentary of the young athletes who were interviewed for a video presentation and noted that their communication skills were 'impressive', asking them to keep improving these skills alongside their athletic skills, as it was vitally important that when they ascend in the athletic world, they must be able to represent themselves articulately and confidently.

After the ceremony, which also featured remarks from NAAA Dexter Voisin, Kabir Hosein and Ian Carter, Programme Coordinator for the Elite Programme, the athletes and their parents and members of NAAA were then taken on a tour of the Point Lisas Estate and on return, were presented with tokens of appreciation.

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