



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

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BEYOND THE PIPELINE

A Newsletter for Our Pipeline Communities



NGC Bocas Lit Fest Among Top 20 Literary Festivals Worldwide

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FACILITIES UPGRADE



SPORT



CNG

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THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
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STEELPAN



SPORT



NGC BOCAS LIT FEST

Corporate Profile

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC), established in August 1975, plays a key role in the development of Trinidad and Tobago's natural gas-based energy sector. NGC is an aggregator of natural gas supplied and sold in the energy sector. Its commercial activities are expanding into areas such as offshore oil and gas production, and in diverse, but related, energy businesses such as natural gas liquid (NGL) bulk trading, compressed natural gas (CNG), as well as upstream oil and gas development.

Currently, NGC's four principal subsidiaries comprise:

- Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL);
- National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (National Energy);
- NGC CNG Company Limited (NGC CNG); and
- Trinidad and Tobago NGL Limited (TTNGL).

NGC and its subsidiaries are referred to as 'The NGC Group of Companies'. The contribution made by the NGC Group of companies to the national economy is substantial. In addition, through its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programmes, the Group plays a key role in national development.

NGC's CSR portfolio is designed to influence a wide variety of fields for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. Our support ranges from developing CSR programmes to collaborating and supporting the initiatives of hundreds of non-governmental and community-based organisations through grants and contributions.

In this issue, you will read about how our sponsorships have helped the continued development of the steelpan, community facilities upgrade, Arts and Culture and Sport. Our support of festivals such as the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and contributions toward steelpan and tassa are helping to build a legacy of literacy and local culture appreciation, as well as support for youth development in clear and industrious ways. You will also read about our subsidiary companies: NGC CNG Company Limited's progress in CNG development and National Energy's safety concerns for the community. Do enjoy.

For more information, please visit our website www.ngc.co.tt or Facebook page NGC Group Gasco News.

NGC Bocas Lit Fest among the Top 20 Literary Festivals Worldwide

For the past seven years, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest has been one of NGC's flagship 'investments' within its CSR programme.

The festival's scope and popularity (both regionally and internationally) have grown substantially since its inception. This year, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest was named among the world's top 20 literary festivals by Penguin Random House – The Writers' Academy. This tribute cemented the Festival's significance as a forum for creative thinking, poetry readings, idea generation, intellectual discussion and open debate.

The festival was held during the period April 26th to 30th, 2017 at the National Library and the adjoining Old Fire Station, Port of Spain. During this period, a host of interesting and thought-provoking events took place.

This year's festival saw over 50 regional authors and speakers taking part in the programme, including Dr. the Honourable Keith C. Rowley, Prime Minister, joined the NGC Bocas Lit Fest for a candid, compelling session on his recently published memoir, *From Mason Hall to Whitehall*. The one-on-one session was facilitated by the festival's Deputy Director, award-winning writer, Mr. Funso Aiyejina,



Left to right: Mr. Funso Aiyejina, NGC Bocas Lit Fest Deputy Director; Marina Salandy-Browne, Festival Founder and Director; Dr. the Honourable Keith C. Rowley, Prime Minister; and Mr. Gerry C. Brooks, NGC Chairman at the one-on-one session to promote the Prime Minister's memoir, *From Mason Hall to Whitehall*.

on April 27th, 2017 at the Old Fire Station. The festival's five-day period featured panel discussions on issues such as human rights, press freedom, and the criminal justice system.

Events which also took place included:

- Human Rights Open Mic
- Caribbean Poetry's New Wave
- Human Rights Ole Mas Competition
- Stand up for Your Rights Open Mic
- National Poetry Slam
- CineLit: The Latin American and Caribbean Literacy Film Festival
- Bocas Book Nook
- Behind Prison Walls – Poetry Readings
- Writers First
- Panel Discussions including Energy without Conscience

The festival's programme has grown each year, with this year seeing the inclusion once again of the CineLit Film Festival which featured Latin American films based on books.

An international judging panel also announced the winners of the three publication categories:

- Poetry: *Cannibal* by Safiya Sinclair (University of Nebraska Press)
- Fiction: *Augustown* by Kei Miller (Weidenfeld and Nicolson)
- Non-Fiction: *Virtual Glimpses into the Past/A Walk Back in Time: Snapshots of the History of Trinidad and Tobago* by the late Angelo Bissessarasingh (Queen Bishop Publishing).

NGC's involvement in the NGC Bocas Lit Fest has proven to be one of our most successful partnerships, reaching thousands of people throughout Trinidad and Tobago and providing a platform for Caribbean writers to develop, be recognised and ultimately add to the rich tradition in literature that already exists. Winner of the 2017 OCM Bocas Prize was Kei Miller which was announced on April 29th, 2017 at a special ceremony.

Gonzales Sheikers Music Literacy Programme

In the community of Gonzales located in Belmont, lies the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra Pan Theatre. The theatre was constructed by NGC in 2015 for the purpose of fostering pan literacy, facilitating entrepreneurial activities by the band and providing a space where the youth in the community could engage in learning activities.

Band Manager of the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra, Fitzroy Lewis, said, "We are very grateful for NGC's support over the years. Construction of the pan theatre has resulted in some changes in the community. We are now seeing more youth interested in playing pan and parents are becoming more involved since they are seeing the benefits in their children by keeping them occupied and away from negative influences."



Right: Clive Telemaque, Music Literacy Programme Tutor with some students

One of the learning activities provided by the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra was a music literacy programme for children in the community. The programme started on Monday 10th April 2017 and ran for two weeks.

The aim of the music literacy programme is to allow players and members of the community to learn to play the instrument, as well as read sheet music.

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This project allows the band to develop a cadre of players to increase their competitiveness in competitions, as well as provide an opportunity for community engagement which is especially important in communities like Gonzales where there are several negative influences targeting the youth.

Tutor of the music class, Clive Telemaque, said, "We have a good turnout this year, about 20 students participated in the programme. The music classes are having an impact on the youth. Besides learning a valuable skill, the programme is keeping them off the streets and doing something productive". A student in the music class, Harmony Clinton, said, "I like music and want to take it further. Also, I like attending lessons because I am learning something I love and having fun."

The Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra Pan Theatre is also used to facilitate sporting activities. Members of the community play table tennis and gym activities are held three days of the week. Additionally, there is a small cafeteria which generates income for some badly needed items such as a TV and sound system.



The Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra Pan Theatre located in Belmont



Students display their certificates at the graduation ceremony

Wealth Generation Funds were made available for the band to invest in entrepreneurial initiatives. These initiatives were approved based on suitable projected returns and entrepreneurial spirit, as well as long-term sustainability. On Saturday 15th April 2017, the band held a cake sale to raise funds. In the future, the band hopes to construct a computer room for IT classes.

A graduation ceremony for 10 students was held on May 13th, 2017 at 3:30 pm in the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra Pan Theatre. In attendance were Community Relations Officer, NGC, Fofi George, and officials from the Gonzales Sheikers, Tutor of the music class, Clive Telemaque, and Band Manager of the Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra, Fitzroy Lewis.

Sponsorship of this steelband allows NGC to strengthen its national commitment to the instrument as a means of fostering community solidarity, youth development, and entrepreneurial spirit and increasing brand visibility in furtherance of NGC's CSR objectives.

NGC Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Group Launches Tassa Academy

The NGC-sponsored Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Band launched The T&T Sweet Tassa Academy on March 18th, 2017 located at Mt. Stewart Village, Princes Town. This was a great achievement for T&T Sweet Tassa whose mission is to tutor persons interested in learning tassa drumming.

While NGC is not directly involved in the operations of the academy, the band created the programme from attending NGC's Capacity-Building Programme. The band used the fundamentals of the programme to conceptualise the academy. The Tassa Academy officially opened and commenced in January. The academy is open to all age groups and is committed to teaching tassa at various schools and institutions. In the future, the academy hopes it will become an accredited learning institution in the country.

Founder and Manager of NGC T&T Sweet Tassa, Mr. Lenny Kumar, praised NGC for providing the foundation for the establishment of the academy. He said, "Our sponsor – NGC – guided us in the right direction through its unique Capacity-Building Programme.



T&T Sweet Tassa Girls

The programme has helped us develop and strengthen our skill-set to be able to adapt and thrive in this fast-changing world". He gave a brief background on the genesis of the academy remarking, "I have taught at many primary and secondary schools, organisations nationally and internationally, and held master classes at universities in the United States. Now, I have decided to create my legacy by opening this academy to help persons develop their interest and talent in this art form. The art of tassa drumming is a test of coordination. When persons are taught the instrument they develop the skills of creativity, rhythm and innovativeness."

NGC continues to sponsor organisations which promote and preserve the Arts, education and our local heritage. As such, the two tassa groups we sponsor are the Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Enterprises and Bao Simba Entertainers of Tobago, the latter incorporating tassa with African rhythms.



Manager of NGC T&T Sweet Tassa, Lenny Kumar, left, performs with Siparia Deltones



Left: NGC's Community Relations Officer, Alister Narinesingh, and Head Community Relations, Wynda Chandler, attend NGC Trinidad & Tobago Sweet Tassa Band launch of the Tassa Academy

Vance River Recreational Facility Upgrade

NGC, along with the Vance River Village Council, hosted a ceremonial opening on Wednesday 15th February 2017 to mark the official handover of the Vance River Recreational Facility to the Siparia Regional Corporation and Vance River Village Council. This was one of several projects started and completed in various communities, which were impacted during the construction of the 56-inch-diameter Cross Island Pipeline Project (CIPP) in the 2003-2004 period.

While it was long in coming to fruition, the upgrade of the Vance River Recreational Facility included:

- Sport pavilion, inclusive of offices, seating area, washrooms and storage area
- Construction of drains around basketball court, front of the pavilion
- Construction of car park and roadway
- Construction of water tank stand
- Refurbishment and upgrade of existing basketball court, including fencing



Opening ceremony: Vance River Recreational Facility. Left: Community Relations Officer, NGC, Myles Lewis; Head, Community Relations, NGC, Wynda Chandler; (fourth from left) Manager Corporate Communications, NGC, Lisa Burkett, and the Vance River Village Council

- Construction of septic tank system
- Construction of wheelchair access for pavilion

Patrice Edwards, a member of the Vance River Village Council, said that "Before the upgraded and completed facility was handed over to the community, we were not very active. Only a limited number of events were held at the community centre". She went on to say that, "The recreational facility is now being used for basketball and netball and the courts are now filled with young people from the village. The kids are coming out and playing games, young people are running on the fields and now, we have older people who are walking, which did not happen before".

The Vance River Village Council manages the facility, overseeing the everyday activities held there. Ms. Edwards stated, "The facility is used by schools, church groups and groups wanting to hold meetings. We have also opened our doors to requests from outside our community. Our new facility has brought some sunshine to our community."

The Vance River Recreational Facility is a launching pad for sporting careers. The upgraded facility will serve to provide increased opportunities for many more generations to come. Even more gratifying is the fact that this community refurbishment project not only rejuvenated a landmark facility but secured a training ground for future athletes in the area. At the handover, the Councillor said he was overjoyed to have the facility in the community.

BUSINESS | NGC CNG COMPANY LIMITED

Convert and Save with CNG

It is now easier to convert and save with CNG as a fuel for your vehicle. Earlier this year, the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries licensed two more CNG converters. They are Burmac CNG located on Gaston Street in Chaguanas and Dumore Enterprises, Belle Vue Industrial Estate, South Oropouche.

Both companies have a long history in the automotive sector in Trinidad and Tobago and venturing into the CNG conversion business has expanded their offerings. Burmac CNG is offering conversions for both gasoline and diesel vehicles, while Dumore Enterprises is only concentrating on gasoline conversions at this time.

In January, two new CNG supply points were opened. They are NP Carrousel at Mon Repos Roundabout in San Fernando and NP Ramco Eastbound on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway in Orange Grove. These two openings brought to eight, the number of CNG stations open and available to the public, with several more



NGC Group Chairman, Gerry C. Brooks (centre), cuts the ribbon to officially open the CNG supply at the NP Ramco Service Station at Orange Grove, Trincity in January 2017. Minister of Works & Transport, Senator Rohan Sinanan stands to the left of Mr. Brooks. Also in picture from left, Edwin Gooding, Chairman of PTSC; Razai Azard Rahaman, Chairman of Rahamut Group; and Sahid Hosein, Chairman of NP.

expected to be opened in 2017 and 2018, including NP Starlite in Diego Martin, NP Chaguanas Main Road and NP Tumpuna Road, Arima. All new CNG stations in Trinidad and Tobago will be outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment, which can fill approximately 700 vehicles per day. A fill up in a regular sedan only takes three minutes.

In May this year, the NGC CNG Company Limited also made a series of incentives available for taxi drivers, maxi taxi drivers and drivers of private school buses. A registered taxi driver who converts his vehicle to run on CNG can receive \$5,000 in free fuel via a fuel card. A registered maxi taxi driver who converts his vehicle, which is four years or newer, will receive \$30,000 if it is a large maxi taxi or \$20,000 if it is a small maxi taxi. The same incentive is given for any maxi taxi, which is converted that is older than four years; the owner will receive \$30,000 in free CNG for a large maxi taxi or \$20,000 for a small maxi. For yellow school buses, anyone who is a registered member of the Private School Transport Association of Trinidad and Tobago (PSTATTT) can receive \$15,000 in free CNG if they buy an OEM CNG bus or \$7,500 if they convert their existing school bus. All incentives and grants must be applied for from the NGC CNG Company Limited and approvals are subjected to explicit terms and conditions.

With new converters available, opening of more stations, grants and incentives on offer, it is definitely easier to switch and save with CNG.

CNG Converters

- Burmac CNG – 672-0991/0995
- Dumore Enterprises – 677-2910
- NGC CNG – 636-4662 Ext 3407

Extending HSSE to the Community

Health, Safety, Security and the Environment (HSSE) is at the heart of everything we do at The NGC Group of Companies, as it ensures the sustainability of our people, processes and property. National Energy is party to the NGC Group's HSSE policy which aims to achieve 'zero unsafe behaviours' and as a responsible corporate citizen, the Company is extending this philosophy to its fenceline community of Couva.

Through its Loss Prevention & Sustainability (LPS) Department, National Energy is helping to provide a safer environment for the students and teachers of Milton Presbyterian Primary School. In January this year, the Corporate Communication & Administration (CC&A) Department met with the principal of the school and noted several areas for improvement. When approached by CC&A, the LPS Department did not hesitate to get

involved, conducting a site inspection at the school and providing recommendations for HSSE enhancements.

One of the recommendations was that safety signage be installed throughout the compound including 'Children Playing' and 'Reverse Parking' signs. LPS also made recommendations for the installation of speed bumps on the roadway at the entrance of the school to ensure that motorists slow down at the pedestrian crossing.

In April 2017, National Energy was pleased to install the signage which will help raise HSSE awareness among all who attend and visit the school daily. Through this positive step and



Safety signs at Milton Presbyterian Primary School

continued collaboration with National Energy, Milton Presbyterian is well on its way to achieving the goal of 'zero unsafe behaviours'.

NGC-Sponsored Games 2017

Sport is good for the mind, body and spirit. Sport develops a sense of friendliness and competitiveness among children. Furthermore, sport encourages children to build team spirit, develops mental and physical toughness and encourages good health.

For a long time, NGC has recognised the benefits of sport and has been contributing toward nurturing sporting talent and encouraging aspirations of children in Trinidad and Tobago. Key to NGC's sporting pillar has been to support the Primary Schools Track and Field Games in the Moruga Zone, and the St. Patrick and Caroni Education District Games. The Caroni Education District Games is in fact the most long-standing recipient of NGC's sponsorship.

The Games were all held in April 2017, which began with the march past, which always sets the tone for the day with the vibrant display of colours, and generates energy and comradeship among the students, spectators and athletes. This year, attending the games were the Member of Parliament for Moruga/Tableland, Dr. Lovell Francis; His Worship the Mayor of Point Fortin, Councillor Abdon Mason; various School Supervisors I-III, and Principals. The Games were also attended by various NGC representatives, who all spoke about the importance of youth involvement in sport and physical activity, and the importance of the youth development tenet in NGC's social responsibility programme.

The Moruga Police Station made a presentation of equipment (starting blocks and cones) to the Moruga Primary Schools' Zonal Committee. These Games have always



Caroni Games



Moruga Games

provided an opportunity for NGC to support emerging athletic talent by providing an opportunity for children to display their skills, as well as for coaches to identify and recruit talented children.

The 2017 edition of the Games was full of exhilaration and excitement. There were moments when spectators were at the edge of their seats. The talent and skills were quite evident, and as a sponsor, NGC had the satisfaction that its in-house programme, NGC Right on Track, was impacting track and field in the education districts.

The Caroni Games were held at the Manny Ramjohn Stadium while the St. Patrick Games were held at Coronation Park.



Left: Community Relations Officer, NGC, Natalie Phipps presents a trophy to Basse Terre RC School



Moruga Games



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

Energy Brain Buster

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra is located in Belmont.
2. Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra Pan Theatre is used only to practise pan.
3. The NGC Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Group formed the Tassa Academy after attending capacity-building classes offered by NGC.
4. The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago was featured at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.
5. The Vance River Recreational Facility was handed over to the Siparia Regional Corporation.
6. NGC's CSR programme has been supporting the Primary Schools Track and Field Games for many years in the Moruga Zone and in the St. Patrick District.
7. This year, two new CNG supply points were opened, NP Carrousel at Mon Repos roundabout in San Fernando and NP Ramco eastbound on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway in Orange Grove.
8. The NGC CNG Company Limited made a series of incentives available for maxi taxi drivers only.
9. Two CNG converters are Burmac CNG and Dumore Enterprises.
10. National Energy is helping to provide a safer environment for the students and teachers of Milton Presbyterian Primary School by installing safety signs.

Answers: 1. True 2. True 3. True 4. True 5. False 6. False 7. True 8. False 9. True 10. True



Photo of the Month

Cocorite Palm with Fruit

Cocorite Palm with fruit found in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve, an area included in NGC's reforestation programme

Photography by
Mark Lyndersay