



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

**REMARKS BY INDAR MAHARAJ, PRESIDENT
AT
OPENING CEREMONY**

MIC INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Friday September 6, 2013

3:00 p.m.

Ground Floor, Tobago Technology Centre

Milford Road, Tobago



I want to begin by giving you a quick idea of the philosophy behind the industrial training and apprenticeship programme that is being launched today. It's quite obvious that if a student wants to enter a particular field, whether it be technical, academic, or artistic, he or she must have the suitable qualifications. He must have the documentation to prove that he has been exposed to sufficient hours of instruction, and that he has understood what he has been taught.

Yet, having the qualifications is just the beginning. Indeed, while they are the prerequisite for everything that we do, what ultimately defines you, and separates those who are truly capable from those who are unable to translate thought into action, is the hands-on experience that you have. To put it simply, it is not enough to know or to be qualified; you must also be able to put into action what you know.

Programmes such as this one make the best use of this philosophy. We at NGC, along with our collaborators in this exercise, Metal Industries Company

Limited, have long been satisfied with the method of immersing the student directly into their chosen environment, rather than allowing them to languish in a classroom collecting information without having the opportunity to put it to the test.

Over the next two years, participants will spend four days in training on the plant and one day in the classroom. This training will take place at MIC's Tobago Technology Centre and NGC's facility at Cove Eco industrial Estate, Tobago.



The programme will focus on equipping students to support the maintenance and operations of the NGC Gas Receiving Terminal.

The trainees are no strangers to the industrial environment. They have already completed a Skills Development Programme at the National Energy Skills Training Centre in Tobago. This group of 22 students is primarily in their twenties, although we do have one trainee who is 41 years old. I think this wide span of ages proves that, even as we concentrate on equipping the youth for employment, it is also true to say that you can change or enhance careers at any stage in your lifetime.

I also note that one of the trainees is female, and she is not the first young woman to have passed through such a programme, not by a long shot. It's good to see that the image of female-exclusion that once haunted the energy sector and process industry is a thing of the past.

As a corporate sponsor, NGC will undertake the costs of this training programme, including tools, reading materials, and Personal Protective Equipment, along with a stipend for all participants. We will also collaborate closely with MIC to determine the most appropriate subject matter to meet the demands of the programme. We will, of course, provide trainees with orientation, advice and counselling with regards to their conduct and the required life skills, so that they can make the most of their experience.



Many of you here may not know that the NGC/MIC collaboration began many years ago with the introduction to Trinidad and Tobago of what you now know as the National Skills Development Programme (NSDP) and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC). There was extensive collaboration, including trips to Germany to observe what you know as the journeyman process and other processes, to facilitate knowledge transfer that was specific to the energy sector.

Today marks another milestone in our collaboration with this training programme on which our two companies put their stamp of approval! Given the years of experience that MIC has had in developing and implementing programmes of this nature, I am assured of only the best outcome.

I would like to acknowledge their efforts, past, present and future, in equipping the workforce of one of the most demanding, certainly the most important, yet satisfying, sectors in the country.

To the participants, I hope you will make the best of every opportunity that comes your way, even if the experience might seem taxing at the time. You have taken the first step towards a career in which you can hardly fail to thrive.



The energy and energy-related industries in Trinidad and Tobago are rapidly growing, and the opportunities they present for you are endless. You have nowhere to go but up. All of us at NGC wish you success in your training and in your future endeavours. Thank you.

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