

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

CNG MEDIA CONFERENCE

NGC Head Office

Orinoco Drive, Point Lisas

Saturday 7th September, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

President's Welcome

Mr. Indar Maharaj

SALUTATIONS

Good afternoon.

I'd like to begin by thanking members of the media for coming here this afternoon to listen to what we have to say this afternoon, and for passing on to the public the valuable information we are about to impart.

I'm sure that by the end of this session, you will understand just how important the efforts of Trinidad and Tobago's Natural Gas Vehicle Task Force can be to the travelling public, and, from a more holistic perspective, the national economy.

In a little while, one of my predecessors, former President of NGC, Mr. Frank Look Kin, will deliver a presentation that will give you a clearer overview of the achievements of the Task Force, and the actions that the government has been taking to popularise this cost effective, efficient and clean-burning fuel.

I don't want to encroach on Mr. Look Kin's territory, so I won't get into the details of the fuel itself, the many incentives the government is offering to encourage CNG consumption, or the efforts they are making to increase its availability.

What I want to speak about today is NGC's role in making all this happen. Of course, as you know, one of the main areas of NGC's responsibility as a State enterprise is the purchase, transport and sale of natural gas to large and small consumers throughout Trinidad and Tobago, including gas stations that currently sell CNG.

As more and more service stations come on board by offering CNG to drivers, NGC has been establishing the necessary connections and entering into the agreements required for sale to the consumer.

From an economic point of view, the popularisation of CNG by domestic users and by government and public transport vehicles will redound to the public good through an increase in NGC's share of the fuel transportation sector. Compared to 1.3 billion litres of liquid sold per year in Trinidad and Tobago, CNG sales account for 4 million litres. In other words, CNG's share of the transportation fuel sector translates into just 0.3%.

If CNG sales continue to rise as anticipated, this could result in as much as 383 million litres, or about 30% of liquid fuel sales by year five of the CNG Task Force's programme.

NGC also works closely with the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries to conceptualise and implement initiatives to further the interests of the natural gas sector.

As such, we believe it is important to lead by example. The Company has therefore decided that one of the best ways to encourage awareness in the minds of the public about CNG as a vehicular fuel is to use it ourselves.

I am pleased to say that when the contracts for our leased and perquisite vehicles expired, we replaced many of them with a fleet of CNG-ready vehicles. The exception, of course, being vehicles that are driven in areas where industry standards and safety considerations restrict the use of this fuel. These include many industrial sites and restricted areas. These vehicles will continue to use diesel in accordance with regulations.

I'm also happy to let you know that NGC is at the moment constructing its own CNG fuelling station at its Transport Division here on the Estate, in order to facilitate the quick and easy refuelling of vehicles by our staff. Of course, when NGC's new Head Office complex is constructed, a CNG fuelling station is certain to be one of our priorities.

We are sure that by putting our money where our mouth is, we are leading the way for other corporate entities to consider this cost-effective and environmentally responsible move.

I therefore want to encourage you, as journalists, to be open to the idea of CNG becoming more popular and available than it has ever been. As you will soon hear, the constraints that have stopped this from happening in the past are being addressed, and this cost effective and clean-burning fuel has a lot to offer. Thank you for the role you are about to play in getting the word out.

I hope you have a revealing and enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you.