

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Launch of Creative Parenting workshop

Couva Chamber of Commerce

Camden Road, Couva

Saturday 28th September, 2013

Message from NGC

(SALUTATIONS)

Good day to you all.

I'm quite sure that by now you all know that NGC has always placed huge emphasis on education and youth development. We have supported or even developed educational and training programmes for students across the age spectrum, from emergency response and natural gas education sessions in primary schools to advanced technological training for tertiary level students.

But we are also aware that there is another side to education, the affective side, in which young people learn about themselves, the world, and their place in it. They learn to think before they act, to communicate their feelings, whether negative or positive, and to respond to conflicts in ways that are wholesome and constructive.

This type of learning is not only critical for the youths themselves, but also for their parents and teachers. We in Trinidad and Tobago have evolved from a society of people who looked after each other, who gently nurtured and disciplined each other's children. The village took responsibility for the child.

Now, many children return home from school to empty houses, or are babysat by computers and television sets. We feel them slipping away, and many of us don't know what to do.

This is why workshops such as these are so important. They can offer help to parents who are at a loss, or even those who are already well ahead of the game but need to strengthen their skills. Through this programme, we hope to see parents who can communicate effectively with their children in a caring and nurturing manner, therefore not just raising up a generation of young people who are

confident, optimistic, assertive and respectful, but also another generation of future parents who, we hope, will pass on superior parenting skills when their time comes.

We therefore congratulate the organisers of this workshop, especially the members of the Police Youth Clubs who have given so much of their time to these young people. We have every faith that the seeds you are sowing here today will bear fruit, and we restate our commitment to being a part of your endeavours.

To the participants, I urge you to make this experience count, and hope you leave better equipped to handle the most noble, most frustrating, and most rewarding calling of all: parenting.

Thank you.