

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Chairman Remarks

NAAA – Sagicor/NGC National Open Championships

<<Salutations>>

On behalf of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2013 National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago Sagicor/NGC National Open Championships. I know you are as excited as I am to be a part of this three-day display of the sporting excellence of our young men and women.

As Chairman of NGC, I would like to state how happy we are to be involved with the Championships, which we believe is of incredible significance to our youth, our communities and the nation itself.

This is NGC's second year as sponsor – along with Sagicor – of the National Open Championships. And we are deeply committed to the event and enthusiastic to once again take part in such an outstanding athletic activity in partnership with

these organisations. The NAAA is doing crucial work for athletics in Trinidad and Tobago, and more importantly, for the youth of T&T.

At NGC we are firm believers in the urgency of youth development – for their own benefit and for the sustainable growth of our beautiful country and region. In fact, youth development is one of our five pillars of change and a consistent component of our corporate social responsibility agenda.

We have been committed to helping T&T and the Caribbean's young people actualise themselves through sports for over a decade now. Some may know of our "Right on Track" coaching caravan, a science-based, development programme that exposes boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 19, many of them from rural areas, to the skills needed in track and field and basketball. The track and field component has been deemed worthy enough to be sanctioned by the North American, Central American and Caribbean Athletics Association and introduced in the Eastern Caribbean. For ten years now Right on Track has raised a generation of Caribbean athletes, among them Grenadian 400 metres world champion and current Olympic gold medal holder Kirani James, as well as T&T's own Olympic javelin gold medalist, Keshorn Walcott.

Right on Track and the National Open Championships are just two of many areas within sports that NGC makes an effective contribution. We are a mainstay of support for the Primary Schools Track and Field Games. For eight years we were a major sponsor of the Carifta games and although this relationship has changed we have agreed to assist the NAAA with etiquette, discipline, speech and esteem modules for games hosted internationally.

Why this enormous commitment to youth development? At NGC we have an intimate understanding of the importance of maximising a natural resource. As the stewards of T&T's natural gas assets and its gas-based energy industry, investing and effectively managing natural resources is our business. And what resource is as important and as capable of having a transformative effect on a nation as its youth? We invest in the youth of T&T for their own sake and because we know that given the proper care and commitment they will blossom into the powerful and productive nation builders of tomorrow, whether in the boardroom, on the stage or on the track.

I would like to wish all our young athletes the greatest possible success in these games on behalf of NGC. Give it your all. Do your best. We are rooting for each and every one of you. Though you may not cross the finish line first, you are all

winners because of your effort and determination. And Trinidad and Tobago is a winner because of you.