

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Capacity Building Workshop Graduation

Saturday, 30th November 2013

Helen May Johnston Room, Queen's Hall, Port of Spain

Remarks by Mrs. Cassandra Patrovani Sylvester

VP, Human and Corporate Relations

SALUTATIONS

Good morning.

Many of NGC's Corporate Social Investment programmes are targeted towards community development. We do this through various avenues, including our support of training, education, sport, art, and culture.

Over the years we have found that the most effective social development programmes are those that we approach from an intimate, personal standpoint, in the sense that we focus on small groups of individuals who are working together to make a difference. In this way, not only are our results more tangible, but we also have the opportunity to forge solid relationships that can stand the test of time.

Relationships such as those we have formed with community groups like the Police Youth Clubs that we support, such as the Beetham Gardens, Couva, La Brea and Laventille Road clubs, and community police officers who have been invited to participate, who have come from as far as Mayaro in the south-west and Bagatelle/Blue Basin in the West. We have also been happy to include other youth-oriented organisations such as the Gonzales Sheikers.

The enthusiasm of these 31 graduates has been so great, and their progress so quick, that we have the satisfaction of instant gratification, while knowing that the changes we have helped to make will ripple through the communities, triggering more and more changes, until almost every life is positively touched.

And through these programmes, we at NGC have had the opportunity to meet community leaders and organisers who have volunteered their services because they see a gaping need that must be filled, a broken bridge that must be mended. These are people with true spirit and genuine, willing hearts. But spirit and hearts are not enough. There must also be knowledge and experience.

This is why this capacity building workshop is so important to the future of these groups. Administration and leadership are skills that must be learned in order to be effectively executed.

It's important that these volunteers clearly understand the science of organisation, the art of leadership. We're confident that today's graduates will return to their groups better equipped to entice the best performance from their groups, and knowledgeable enough to pass these skills on to others. A better managed group means a stronger group; a stronger group means a stronger community; and a stronger community means a stronger nation.

And building a stronger nation is one of the reasons NGC was created.

Congratulations to all the graduates, thanks to all the organisers, and we look forward to working with you again.

Thank you.