



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

**NGC Sanfest Media Launch
17th June, 2017**

(Salutations)

There is an inherent value of arts and culture that shapes our society. When we talk about the value of arts and culture, we usually begin with the intrinsic – how it brightens our lives. Without the arts, there would be no creative arguments about the past, no diverse and stimulating discourse about the present and no dreams of the future. NGC Sanfest is fertile ground – to celebrate the talent of our youth and ensure that the value of our indigenous arts are recognised, honed and sustained.

NGC has designed and developed perhaps one of the largest and most extensive Corporate Social Responsibility programmes in the Caribbean. As a good corporate citizen, we support a wide variety of fields for the benefit of Trinidad and Tobago. Our support ranges from developing programmes in sport, arts and culture, education, youth empowerment and development and environmental preservation to sponsoring the initiatives of hundreds of non-governmental and community-based organisations.

Both our business and CSR initiatives signal that NGC, and by extension the NGC Group, has a measurable impact on the Trinidad and Tobago economy, society, education, sports and arts and culture. One of our major CSR projects is NGC Sanfest which focuses on “promoting and protecting the indigenous arts.”

This year's NGC Sanfest theme centers around a tree. A tree that sprouts bright, multi-coloured leaves of varying sizes supported by a strong trunk, calling upon all to "celebrate the talent of our youth." I interpret that the participants of the NGC Sanfest are like the leaves of that tree – young multi-talented citizens who are giving of themselves in pursuit of artistic achievement. While the sturdy trunk represents the San Fernando Arts Council and NGC providing the support for the blossoming of the leaves, we who witness the tree in bloom are here to admire, encourage, promote and celebrate our youth as they seek to express themselves in the arts.

Roots anchor trees in the rich cultural earth of Trinidad and Tobago, keeping it secure and stable, and able to absorb the necessary nutrients it needs to live and thrive. Tree roots also take nutrients out of the earth for the tree's growth, development, and repair. Likewise, NGC also sees its role is a key player in local natural gas industry of Trinidad and Tobago, as an anchor, enabling the growth of the Company, NGC Group, the energy sector and the country.

This year's festival pays homage to SFAC's Torrance Mohammed and T&T's dare I say Queen of Calypso, Linda McArtha Sandy-Lewis, more popularly known by her sobriquet Calypso Rose. These two may be seen as defenders and champions of our uniquely Trinbagonian arts and culture.

Torrance has been acknowledged as a walking encyclopedia on the subject matter of dance, lending his expertise when called upon. And in 2017, Calypso Rose, as a veteran Calypsonian won the World Album of the Year award at the Victoire de la Musique Award Ceremony in France who still thrills audiences worldwide with her calypso renditions.

Our mission statement underscores the need to create exceptional national value from natural gas and energy business, which we are fully committed to and work tirelessly at. We also strive to continuously add value to Trinidad and Tobago in a way that builds stakeholder and shareholder value. NGC, as Title Sponsor of the Sanfest festival for the past five years, and Title Sponsor of the Mr. and Miss NGC Teen Sanfest Competition for a third year, understands the significance of its investment in youth development through the arts and proudly commits to the supporting initiatives which preserve the nation's national identity and cultural heritage. Like the roots of the Sanfest 2017 tree, NGC is an anchor for the sustainability of Trinidad and Tobago and its people.

Here's to a successful NGC Sanfest 2017!