



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

MEDIA RELEASE

NGC Couva Joylanders' *Titans of Steel IV - Celebration of a Nation*

5th October 2017

NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra successfully hosted its fourth annual concert "Titans of Steel – Celebration of a Nation" on Saturday 30th September, 2017. The well-patronised event featured other NGC-sponsored entities such as NGC Sweet Tassa and NGC Couva Police Youth Club, as well as Laventille Rhythm Section, Tamana Pioneers, Newtown Playboyz and PCS Nitrogen Silver Stars.

NGC became title sponsor of the band in 2012. The band opened its home base named "House of Steel" in December 2012 and hosted its first concert at the venue in 2014. The Titans of Steel concert series is part of the band's Wealth Generation Project, the goal of which is to improve on the band's capacity to become self-sustaining and financially-viable via such community-based events. This year the band was able to host "Titans of Steel IV" without the financial support of NGC. This is a major step towards the band achieving sustainability and operating as a business model.

As part of its involvement to focus on the development aspects of the art form of steelpan, NGC has agreed to support the band through its Capacity Building Programme, and both NGC and the band are involved in the development of the steelpan and the band's community objectives to a level of self-sustainability. NGC's sponsorship of several steelbands, including NGC Couva Joylanders, is structured to ensure sustainability. It includes a wealth generation component designed to support commercial ventures that generate revenue for the band; capacity-building programmes to provide training for the management of the band with the aim of increasing operational efficiency; and music literacy segment to train the band members in the reading of sheet music. NGC funding has also been used to support these bands in their preparation for and performances at Panorama and other national steelband competitions, where they continue to grow in profile and achievement.

In addition to its business of music and entertainment, the NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra is strongly involved and devoted to the training and development of individuals within the community, with its Junior Pan Programme, involving the NGC-sponsored Couva Police Youth Club. Its programmes are intended to promote the national instrument of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as to further develop the musical abilities of others. The primary and secondary schools in addition to the business community are all targeted and facilitated in this initiative. Since forging a relationship with NGC as title sponsor, NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra has also successfully qualified for Panorama Finals from 2014 to 2017.

One of NGC's strategic pillars is to strengthen national contribution. Therefore, as a responsible state entity and a good corporate citizen, it strongly endorses adding value to Trinidad and Tobago in a way that builds stakeholder and shareholder value. NGC's focus on the national instrument is one of over two decades' standing. Our support of the steelpan goes beyond infusions of capital – we seek to build the capacity and marketability of the steelbands we assist in an effort to secure the future of the instrument.



The Titans of Steel "Celebration of a Nation" : NGC Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra used skills and ideas learned in NGC's Capacity Building training programmes to create talent showcase and revenue opportunities such as this event.



Practice Makes Perfect: NGC Couva Joylanders at practice.

For further information, please contact:

Lisa M. Burkett – Manager, Corporate Communications
The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC),
Orinoco Drive, Point Lisas Industrial Estate, Couva
Email: Lisa.Burkett@ngc.co.tt