

THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

MEDIA RELEASE



NGC Group commemorates First Peoples

6th October 2017

NGC's President Mark Loquan, acknowledged openly that the recognition of First Peoples was long overdue and that NGC was supportive of the Government's decision to honour the First People in a one-off national holiday on 13th October, 2017. "This one-off holiday signals that Trinidad and Tobago is moving in the right direction to honour our indigenous people and preserve an essential part of our history." Mr. Loquan made these remarks at a celebration held at NGC's offices for employees of the NGC Group to mark this historic occasion.

NGC Group took the opportunity to have Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez address staff at the company's employee centre, on the importance of the community to Trinidad and Tobago, Stating that the history books were being re-written with facts about the First Peoples, Chief Hernandez also detailed some of the ambitions of the First Peoples, including the construction of a 'real-life' village on 25 acres of land in Arima and possible DNA testing to identify descendants of First Peoples.

A video on the First People, detailing from the days of Columbus to present, was also shown to the NGC Group employees and a question and answer session was facilitated by the Chief. An informative artifact and educational display and craft items were also available for employees to view and purchase. Mr. Loquan also presented a cheque to the Santa Rosa First Peoples in support of this year's Amerindian Heritage Day, a week-long celebration, activities and hosting of visiting contingents of indigenous peoples from Dominica, Guyana and South America.

"Although it may seem far-fetched to connect the First Peoples with NGC and the Group, we share an understanding of what it takes to be the first, to struggle in the face of adversity and emerge victorious. Certainly, we cannot compare our struggles to that of the First Peoples, but we share that common spirit of endurance and community...just as the First Peoples did, NGC is working to imprint ourselves into the chapters of our incredible Trinidad and Tobago history," noted Corporate Communications Manager Lisa Burkett.

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Chief Ricardo Bharath Hernandez of the Santa Rosa First Peoples accepts a token from Mr. Mark Loquan, NGC President .