

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Welcome Remarks

Mark Loquan, President, NGC

Launch of Rethinking Energy Videos

November 29th 2018



SALUTATIONS

Senator The Honourable Franklin Khan, Minister Of Energy And Energy Industries

His Excellency, Aad Biesebroek, Ambassador of the European Union

Her Excellency, Carla Hogan Rufelds, High Commissioner of Canada

Mrs. Caroline Alcock, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission

Mr. Andreas Haack, Chargé d' Affaires, German Embassy

Ms. Nicole Olivierre, Parliamentary Secretary, in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

Ms. Penelope Bradshaw-Niles, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries

His Worship, Alderman Joel Martinez, Mayor of Port of Spain

Mr. Curtis Mohammed, President of NGC CNG

Mr. Jonathan Barcant, Managing Director, IAMovement

Ms. Lisa Burkett, Manager Corporate Communications NGC

Ms. Caroline Sirju Ramnarine, Vice President, Corporate Operations-
Atlantic LNG

Ms. Ronda Francis, Corporate Responsibility Manager BPTT
Management and Staff of the NGC Group of Companies
Team IAMovement

Representatives and Stakeholders of the Energy Sector

Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning.

Being invited to open today's launch of the Rethinking Energy Video Series is truly one of the more rewarding of my responsibilities as President of NGC. Even more exciting, is the opportunity to participate in any exercise that urges us all to rethink this issue.

At NGC, ours is a mission of change which challenges some of the most fundamental assumptions about the culture of our people. In meeting the challenge of change, NGC's key assumption is that ***if people know better, they will do better***. This position is as much an article of faith in the people of Trinidad and Tobago as it is in the intelligence, talent and commitment of our partner in this project, Team IAMovement.

The Rethinking Energy video series is a key tool in NGC's Energy Efficiency education strategy and we believe that it has the power to break through the consumption culture that underpins the public's relationship with electricity. It is a culture that came with the gift of natural gas abundance, with which Trinidad and Tobago was blessed. But it is no secret that the days of natural gas abundance are no more.

We are now on the other side of the gas production curve and our changed circumstances require a change in culture and in the behaviour that it supports, from each one of us. This is the message which we hope will hit home with the population, particularly children and young adults, when this video series pops up on the various electronic and social media platforms which engage their time.

In some ways, the issue posed by this public education initiative is that of choice. Rethinking Energy challenges people to make an active choice about how they wish to use the finite resource of natural gas of which they are the ultimate owners. This series places the information needed for making an informed choice at the very fingertips used for flipping a power switch on and off.

Knowing the financial and industrial value of our country's natural gas, would the public choose to waste electricity because they can afford to do so, as beneficiaries of the cheapest electricity rate in the English-speaking Caribbean, which, it should be emphasised, is subsidised to the value of 250 percent of the true price of electricity?

Or would they conserve it, because it earns them more foreign exchange which could go towards improved educational opportunities, better health care, more business opportunities, a stronger social safety net and so on? Again, ladies and gentlemen, if the public is armed with information, would they turn off the power switch at their homes and work places to do their part in reducing carbon emissions or would they leave electricity to burn because they don't believe in their own power to save the planet, one person at a time?

Would they power up their vehicles with gas, closing their eyes to the increasingly urgent price signal to change before it gets beyond the point of affordability? Or would they read the signal and get ahead of the demand curve by switching to CNG now?

These are intensely personal decisions which rest on the public's access to information about the state of the natural gas industry and the individual's power to act in their own self-interest based on hard and credible information. Again, we at NGC believe that information is power, and that an empowered people will act in their own interest and for the greater good of the country and the generations to come.

This belief has provided the impetus for NGC to work with IAMovement to develop a campaign which will actively educate and influence persons to begin changing behaviours. The three-part video series uses attractive animation to bring awareness to the critical issue of energy efficiency and will be shared directly with hundreds of school children.

Through NGC's support, Team IAMovement will visit approximately 30 secondary schools across Trinidad and Tobago to not only present the videos, but also engage young persons in interactive and provoking discussions around the content and themes. These discussions are meant to create a space for critically thinking or rather rethinking of energy amongst those who stand to be most impacted by our current energy consumption patterns, our nation's youth.

We should not be daunted by the challenge of rallying an entire country behind the idea of energy efficiency. Our Caricom colleague, Dominica, is already leading the way with the bold ambitions to achieve a target of 100 percent renewable energy by 2020. This is all part of the island's quest to become the world's first climate resilient nation.

The Government and people of Dominica are throwing their combined muscle behind these objectives because they know from the devastating experience of last year's Hurricane Maria, that it is a matter of life and death for them.

We don't have to live the Dominica experience to recognise the imperative of acting now to shift our energy consumption patterns and make Trinidad and Tobago more resilient to climate change. Being tagged the world's most energy inefficient country by the *Economist* last year was no badge of honour. But if it works to spur us on to change, even that blemish will be worth its weight in gold.

I then put to you ladies and gentlemen, that raising the issue of energy efficiency and becoming part of the 'movement', pardon the pun, signals stewardship of our country and its resources and by extension, its people. We at NGC are keen to see the laws of the land work in tandem with this aim to implement both renewables and energy efficiency programmes.

By popularising and visualising the problem and potential solutions, our partnership with the IAMovement provides an avenue and vehicle to start the conversation and sway public opinion. The public's skepticism toward energy efficiency stems from a lack of accessible, relevant, digestible information. I believe that these videos will be a game changer and that is why today, I am pleased to endorse the Rethink Series and I welcome you, to do the same.

Thank you.

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