

BEYOND THE PIPELINE

45TH
ANNIVERSARY

AT THE FOREFRONT OF *Energy*



45TH
ANNIVERSARY
AT THE FOREFRONT OF *Energy*

THE NEW NORMAL

#WatchAMovieOnUs

bring it to you
in partnership with

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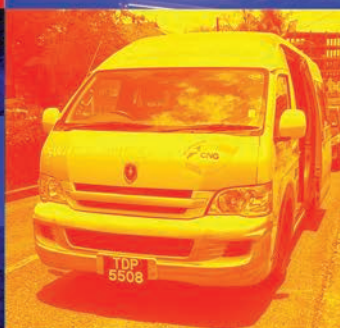
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**THE
COVID-19
VIRUS AND YOU**

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The COVID-19 Virus and You



What's Inside

Contents

Beyond the Pipeline is NGC's Community Newsletter, produced by the Corporate Communications Division of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC)

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Message from the Manager, Corporate Communications 3

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Power of People 4
- Packaged with Care 4
- Meals on Wheels 5
- The New Normal 6
- A Breath of Fresh Air 6
- Communicating COVID-19 7

ARTS AND CULTURE

- Watch a Movie on Us 8
- The NGC Bocas Lit Fest – Survival Kit 9

SPORTS

- NGC Youth Elite Athletes Stay Engaged and Focused Online 10

Energy Brain Buster and Photo of the Month 11

Message from the Manager, Corporate Communications

Our New Normal

"We have seen a lot of corporate citizenship and corporate responsibility ..., but the question needs to be what was the real impact of that programme? Did you really make a difference or was it just for the headline?" – Phyllis Costanza, Head of UBS Society and CEO of Optimus Foundation

This year started like any other as we made resolutions and set goals for business operations and corporate social responsibility activities (CSR) to guide us through the year. Our 45th anniversary, which will be celebrated on August 22nd, was paramount in our minds as we planned a host of interactive CSR activities. However, everything changed with the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which was confirmed to have reached our shores on March 12th, 2020. To help stem the outbreak, the country was placed on lockdown from March 29th, 2020. Citizens were asked to stay at home, venturing out only when absolutely necessary. Most businesses were closed, with only essential services allowed to operate. For NGC, this impacted our business operations, as well as all external community activities, which came to a sudden halt. Non-essential staff were asked to work from home. Rostering of essential staff was put in place to ensure the safety of people first and business continuity.

COVID-19 has forced us to rethink how we do business, communicate, engage, and connect with our fenceline communities and partners. These were some of the activities undertaken by the Company during the last few months to assist our immediate communities and stay connected to the wider national community:

- Supported our at-risk community - elderly homes – through the distribution of gift cards
- Helped families and communities through hamper drives
- Contributed to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the sourcing, production and distribution of face masks to the public
- Financially assisted the Living Water Community to help them continue their charity work for families in need of assistance



MS. LISA MARIA BURKETT
MANAGER, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, NGC

- Contributed specifically to the Halfway House for abused infants and children, Mercy Home for HIV/AIDS patients and the cancer hospice
- Supported safety messages on COVID-19 which were shown on television and social media and broadcast on radio. We also supported fun programming such as: "Home Sweet Home" cooking with Cup of Joe, and #WatchAMovieOnUs with the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff).

We note that the COVID-19 pandemic offers a great opportunity for us at NGC to shift towards a different kind of CSR and contribute to addressing urgent social, economic and environmental challenges that are affecting our country. Obviously, we all hope for the quickest resolution and to return to life as we once knew it as soon as possible.

I began this reflection with a quote from one of the world's top financial managers. At NGC, we weighed our contributions and sought to create a new CSR that is impactful, and more importantly, reaches those who are most affected. We are strengthening our commitment to do our part to ensure not just business continuity, but assistance to our country as we move forward with the new normal in mind. We at NGC hope you and your families are safe and continue to do all in your power to remain so.

Ms. Lisa Burkett
Manager, Corporate Communications, NGC

Power of People

As the global COVID-19 crisis unfolded, it disrupted all our lives in some way. In March, when the stay-at-home measures were announced, non-essential businesses closed, and essential suppliers had to operate with less staff and open for shorter hours. The effect of this shutdown was that thousands of vulnerable families lost their streams of income.

The Couva Sporting and Cultural Organization, the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation, New Land Tenant and Ratepayers Association

(NLTRA) and the Besson Street Police station were among those that received calls from people in need.

NGC was approached to assist in a hamper drive initiative. This was a noble cause and the Company was eager to contribute. We engaged groceries in the Couva area to prepare pre-packaged hampers for delivery to the respective groups who expressed need on behalf of various families.

Some other groups that we also supported and who are our CSR

stakeholders are the National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago (NAAATT), NGC Steel Xplosion Steel Orchestra, NGC La Brea Nightingales Steel Orchestra, Police Youth Clubs and reforestation workers were also among the beneficiaries of our community assistance through hamper distribution. Mark Loquan, President of NGC, commented on the hamper drive distribution, "During this period of uncertainty, we at NGC understand the importance of assisting community and country. I wish to thank all our participants who made this possible and hope that we can return to normal soon."

Packaged with Care

We are proud of and inspired by the men and women who each day provided compassionate care during the pandemic – our doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, food and environment service providers, pharmacists, and countless others. We are grateful for your dedication to Trinidad and Tobago.

When it comes to COVID-19, older people are especially vulnerable to severe illness. Research is showing that adults 60 years and older, especially those with pre-existing medical conditions, especially heart disease, lung disease, diabetes or cancer, are more likely to have severe – even deadly – coronavirus symptoms than any other age group.

Homes providing care to the elderly were obligated to increase sanitisation as a measure to prevent the spread of the virus among persons in their charge. The homes, which already function on tight budgets, were faced with increasing costs for various items such as medication, and cleaning and sanitisation products. NGC recognised this at-risk community and wanted to provide immediate support. The Company therefore donated gift cards to 32 elderly homes including those in our fenceline communities across Trinidad and Tobago. The recipients were grateful and sent us some heartfelt notes of thanks.



"Thanking you for your kind consideration in this time with the present COVID-19 pandemic. We are grateful for the donation, generosity and support."

Ms. Margaret Baptiste, Matron
at the All Saints' Church Gordon
Home, Port of Spain.

"I wish to extend to you my gratitude for your outreach to Dolly's Place – a home for the aged, during this difficult period. I must commend your initiative to contribute to the senior citizens in your community. Your donation will be most beneficial to our residents, especially at this critical time."

Ms. Amara Ali, Director of Dolly's Place,
Preysal, Couva.

"On behalf of the management and staff, we would like to thank you for the gift cards. Words can't express our gratitude and appreciation. May God bless you all and keep you safe during this COVID-19 pandemic."

Reah Figaro,
The Helena Charles Home,
La Brea



Meals on Wheels

When the initial COVID-19 restrictions came into effect, NGC CNG Company Limited, a subsidiary company of NGC, partnered with the Point Fortin Borough Corporation to assist with the delivery of lunches to communities on March 25th, 27th, 30th, and April 1st and 3rd.

The Corporation – led by His Worship the Mayor Kennedy Richards and Councilors – provided up to 150 meals per day for five days for the less privileged members of the community. These persons would have been severely affected by the restrictions, especially school-aged children who depended on meals from the school feeding programme.

The Corporation sourced donations for the lunches from businesses in the area and armed with a small team of volunteers, visited the districts and shared the meals. NGC CNG provided its 15-seater CNG omnibus and a driver to help transport the food.

Distribution of the food was an involved process as it required driving to individual homes to hand out each meal, while still trying to maintain social distancing guidelines. You may notice that masks and strict social distancing were not practiced. This activity occurred before the Chief Medical Officer's request that masks and six feet social distancing be the order of the day.

However, the effort was worth it as the residents of Point Fortin, especially the children, were appreciative. Roger Sant, Communications Manager, NGC CNG Company Limited shared his sentiments, "The Pt. Fortin Borough was one of the first to spring into action in the early days of the COVID-19 restrictions. Their meal distribution initiative was a nice fit for NGC CNG to partner with them as we were able to utilise the services of our Omnibus and bring some cheer to the residents of Pt. Fortin. It was a very rewarding experience for NGC CNG to partner with the Pt. Fortin Borough."



Members from the Regional Corporation distribute food



NGC CNG Company Limited's 15-seater CNG omnibus

The New Normal

On April 7th, 2020, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, in a media briefing, announced that anyone leaving their homes to deliver essential services or to conduct necessary business, must wear a face mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This declaration created an instant demand for face masks, and of course, an unavoidable shortage resulted.

The Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life (FEEL) is a charitable organisation whose mission is to distribute foodstuff, clothing, shoes, as well as hygiene, medical, household, school and disaster relief supplies across Trinidad and Tobago.

FEEL was assigned by the government of Trinidad and Tobago, the responsibility of

sourcing and obtaining a standardised mask that was fit for purpose, and which had to be produced and supplied in sufficient quantities. According to Myles Lewis, Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC, "NGC saw this as another opportunity to help stop the spread of the virus, and all companies in the Group contributed to the FEEL mask call."

Through the efforts of FEEL, there was some assurance that most members of the public were equipped with an effective mask for their use as required by health officials. FEEL also provided all donors with regular reports on the procedure for distribution of the masks.



A Breath of Fresh Air

A shortage of personal protective equipment for healthcare workers and ventilators for patients in many countries dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak was also a feature of the pandemic in Trinidad and Tobago. There was public concern that there was a shortage of ventilators and additional challenges in purchasing these items from foreign suppliers.

Heeding the call for help was The University of the West Indies (The UWI), one of NGC's partners in the fields of innovation, technology and research. NGC was proud to partner with The UWI in a new venture and supported via financial assistance. The project involved the design and manufacture of a prototype ventilator which can be used to address future outbreaks.

A multidisciplinary team of engineers and medical professionals who were working in close partnership with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), made a daring national effort to design and manufacture essential medical equipment which were in short supply or would quickly be depleted in Trinidad and Tobago if things got worse. The team actively worked on designing and



Face shield testing by doctors at POSGH ICU

producing UWI-Vent, a ventilator to assist those with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

This initiative has sought to provide a readily accessible local fallback in the supply of required medical equipment in the event of an escalation of the pandemic, compounded by global shortage of these much-needed items.

Lisa Burkett, Manager Corporate Communications, NGC, shared her thoughts on the project: "As part of our



Aerosolisation hood testing at POSGH

collaborative effort to contribute where possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, and to provide assistance to mitigate the spread, NGC quickly embraced this project as we saw it being beneficial to the long-term fight against this and other pandemics. The equipment will always be needed by medical institutions to address respiratory challenges in patients, and so planning to have a bank of equipment that is easily accessible under a crisis was considered the best form of support."

Communicating COVID-19



COVID-19 has changed our lives. It created an unfamiliar situation where we had to adapt to new health and safety practices, where information on the virus became critical and our daily routine interrupted.

We at NGC sought ways to share information with the public. We have been supporting national campaigns on local television and radio geared toward educating the public about safe practices and topics of interest. Some of NGC's sponsored media series included:

- TTT – "COVID-19 and You" advertisements; "Coping with COVID-19" series, which involves five interviews with experts in the field of health, childcare, education, agriculture and finance; and "Mother, the Other Frontline worker" series.
- CNC3 – NGC video series "Thank You Health Care Workers"; "My Company, Your Company – NGC"; "Social Distancing"; "NGC CNG Meals on Wheels"; "Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme



(YTEPP)"; "NGC's Music Scoring Programme" and "More than a Pipeline"

- ttf screening series "#WatchAMovieOnUs"
- Power 102 – "Stay Safe" COVID-19 advertisements
- Cup of Joe – "Home Sweet Home" cooking shows on Flow and Digicel Play
- Gem Radio I95.5 FM/RED 96.7FM & W107.1 FM – motivational segments of hope to the nation, salute to essential workers and updates on NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2020.

In addition to the media campaigns, a

portal on NGC's website was developed and launched called COVID-19 News, which contains COVID-19 updates. This gave support to the general public and provided a one-stop-shop for information, videos, podcasts, with the intent on keeping the public informed of global developments.

Employees were encouraged to check in via the Company's intranet and COVID-19 News to stay abreast of all the updates and were encouraged to share the information with family, friends and other acquaintances and professional contacts.



<https://ngc.co.tt/ngc-and-its-covid-19-response/>



Watch a Movie on Us

On the entertainment and recreational front, as restrictions on movement became more stringent, and as schools closed and mandated work-from-home was implemented, we collaborated with the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) to share local and regional award-winning films free online for public viewing. The series was called #WatchAMovieOnUs.

The first #WatchAMovieOnUs series ran from March 28th to April 10th, 2020. ttff streamed 14 Trinidad and Tobago film festival favorites. The movies were available for 24 hours via the ttff website and were free for Caribbean audiences.

The movie screening was a success and

ttff decided to run a second series from May 24th to July 12th, 2020. In this run, one movie was screened each weekend and films were available for 48 hours each.

Some of the films aired were: *Calypso Rose: Lioness of the Jungle*; *Songs of Redemption*; *Sensei Redenshon*; *Green Days by the River*; *The Cutlass*; *Pan! Our Music Odyssey*; *Kafou*; *Art Connect*; *Cargo*; *Rain*; *Brown Girl Begins*; *Bim and Play The Devil*, and *Unfinished Sentences*.

NGC was delighted to partner with ttff to support local and regional talent and share our indigenous works with the world.



The NGC Bocas Lit Fest – Survival Kit

The world will not ever be the same. Many of us continue to turn to poems and stories, art, music and film for comfort and inspiration as we imagine new ways to live. During this period, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest team made available three digital Survival Kits. Each kit contained new and recently published books, online archives, and projects by past and present festival writers, performers and artists, creative and intellectual nourishment for the present and future.




SURVIVAL KIT ONE:



- "First thing in the morning" – An excerpt from the new novel, *The Mermaid of Black Conch*, by Monique Roffey
- *The Jaguar's Daughter* – A film-poem by Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné and Puleng Lange Stuart
- *Watercolours* by Jackie Hinkson – A portfolio of images by the official artist for the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2020
- "Listen Up!" and "Kiss and Quarrel in Whispers" – Two poems from *The Errors of the Rendering*, a new book of poems by Funso Aiyejina
- *We Bad* – Music by Freetown Collective
- *Goal* – Short fiction by Barbara Jenkins, from the anthology, *Thicker Than Water*
- "Invading Us Would Be a Waste of Time" – A poem by Thais Espaillat from the forthcoming anthology, *The Sea Needs No Ornament/El Mar No Necesita Ornamento*
- *Closer* – A photography portfolio by Rodell Warner
- "Walk #3" – A new poem by Vahni Capildeo
- *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* – Music by Sharda Patasar, Tom Donald, and Mark Buckingham
- "A somnolence as sweet as malaria" – A poem by Derek Walcott




 <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/survival-kit-1-april-2020/>

SURVIVAL KIT TWO:



- "Epiphaneia" and "Dead Reckoning" – Two poems from *Epiphaneia* by Richard Georges
- "Cooking cascadox" – Ingrid Persaud reads an excerpt from her new novel, *Love After Love*
- Wendy Nanan at the Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.
- "Doubles" – An essay by Andre Bagoo from the forthcoming book, *The Undiscovered Country*
- "From Letters to K" – An excerpt from the chapbook by Anu Lakhan
- "The Conference of the Birds" – A poem from *The Science of Departures* by Adalber Salas Hernández, translated by Robin Myers
- *Dark Cycles/Circles* – Art and text by Christopher Cozier
- "A Simple Man" – A short story by Irma Rambaran
- A tribute to Kamau Brathwaite – "Wake", read by 13 Caribbean writers
- Music from Élan Parlé – If you ever wondered how the Caribbean voice manifests through music and skips



 <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/survival-kit-2/>

SURVIVAL KIT THREE:



- "Caul and Calling" – An excerpt from the forthcoming memoir *Musings, Mazes, Muses, Margins* by Gordon Rohlehr
- "Still Life" – A poem by Cindy Jiménez-Vera
- Three poems by Martin Carter
- EJC Jazz Cuts – Recordings of live performances from T&T's Ethnic Jazz Club
- *Mafootoo* – Fiction by Brian Heap
- *Transformations* – A photography portfolio by Nadia Huggins
- *For Those Who Mispronounce My Name* – A film-poem by Kayo Chingonyi and Maya Cozier
- "Stand Back: Reflections on a Memoir I Wrote Too Soon" – An essay by Tessa McWatt
- *Every Action Counts/Toda Acción Cuenta* – An online concert for World Refugee Day 2020, hosted by the UNHCR Trinidad and Tobago office
- How we remember: reflections on the 175th anniversary of Indian Arrival Day in Trinidad and Tobago
- Caribbean writers in the *Caribbean Beat* archive



 <https://www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/survival-kit-3/>

NGC Youth Elite Athletes Stay Engaged and Focused Online

Track and field may be out of reach at this time due to COVID-19 restrictions but athletes who are part of the NGC/ NAAA Youth Elite Programme are staying on track despite the challenges of not being able to physically train in the normal fashion. The NGC Youth Elite Programme (YEP) is intended to facilitate the holistic development of young track and field athletes between the ages of 14 and 20, who have been identified as those with "podium-potential" by 2024. These athletes were selected based on their performance in local, regional and international games in 2016.

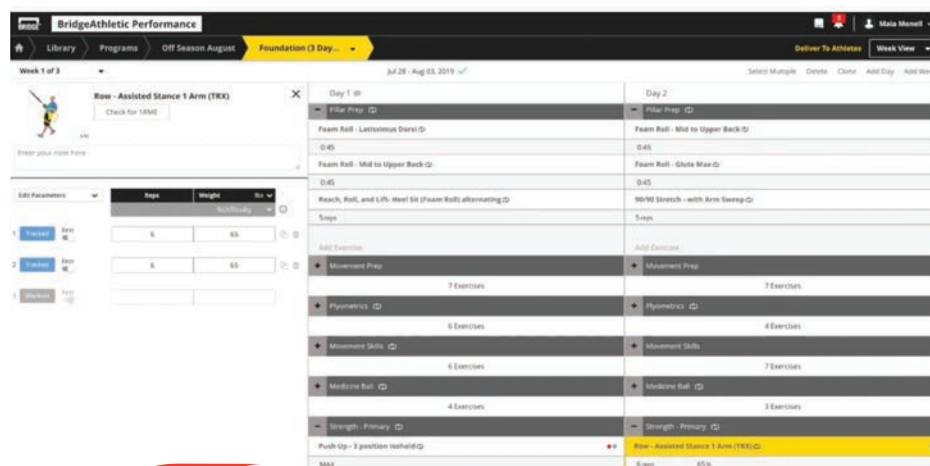
NGC/NAAA YEP athletes remain committed to training via the use of technology and it is playing an increasing role in their developmental regimen. Prior to the pandemic, BridgeAthletic offered world-class software geared towards coaches and personal trainers to deliver custom training programmes and track athlete performance. Understanding the limitations of this new reality, BridgeAthletic opened the platform to be accessible to the athletes as well.

The YEP athletes have embraced the use of online platform – BridgeAthletic. The platform builds high-performance training tools for coaches and athletes who compete at the highest levels. The integrated BridgeAthletic platform leverages the power of technology to revolutionise the way coaches create, deliver and track athlete progress. With customised training programmes delivered directly to their smartphone or tablet, athletes train smarter, power through plateaus, and perform better come game time.

YEP athletes participated in the following webinars:

- March 30th, 2020: *MJP, Bridge Athletics—About the App and How to Use it*
- April 7th, 2020: *MJP, Bridge Athletics—How to Navigate the App*
- May 27th to 1st, 2020: *Coaches Webinars (CCCCP)*
- April 30th, 2020: *Coaches Webinar*

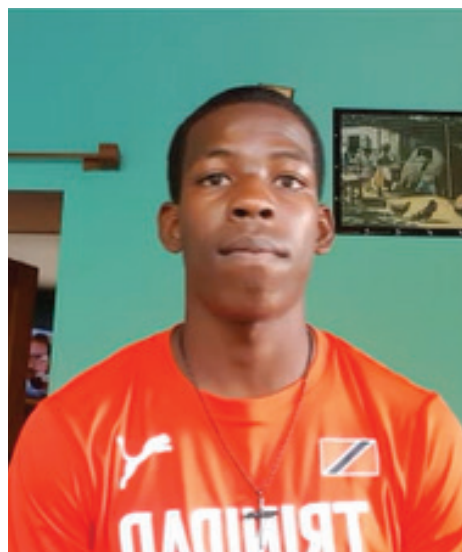
In the upcoming months, the YEP will be hosting an online training symposium, scheduled for August 12th, 2020. The



Screenshot from BridgeAthletic's online tutorial

topics will be on: Health Awareness for Teenagers; Social Media Etiquette for Teenagers and Career Guidance.

Members of the YEP shared their training experience during the COVID-19 stay-at-home period. See their comments below.



Kelsie Daniel, a member of the Panthers Athletic Club: "I am pleased to be a member of the YEP which is designed to elevate my performance. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, my training has been constant. The YEP provides access to platforms which allow me to maintain my training."



Natasha Fox, a member of the Point Fortin New Jets Athletic Club: "During the pandemic, I was able to continue my training programme to maintain my fitness level and muscle mass with the assistance of my coach and the NAAA team."



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

Energy Brain Buster

TRUE OR FALSE

1. NGC supported 32 elderly homes during the COVID-19 stay-at-home period through gift cards.
2. NGC did not assist in a hamper drive distribution.
3. BridgeAthletic is an online training platform for athletes.
4. Wearing a face mask is deemed necessary in preventing the spread of COVID-19.
5. FEEL was assigned by the private sector to source and procure a standardised face mask.
6. One of the movies featured on #WatchAMovieOnUs was *Mission Impossible*.
7. NGC CNG provided its 15-seater CNG omnibus and a driver to deliver meals in the Point Fortin area.
8. A multidisciplinary team of engineers and medical professionals from The UWI actively worked on designing and producing UWI-Vent, a ventilator to assist those with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).
9. NGC was not supportive of advertising safety messages on television and radio during the COVID-19 stay-at-home period.
10. Workers from NGC's reforestation programme were recipients of food hampers.

Answers: 1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False 6. False 7. True 8. True 9. False 10. True



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

NEW BEGINNINGS

Turtles hatching, Blanchisseuse beach, August 2020

45TH ANNIVERSARY

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A Newsletter for Our Pipeline Communities

