



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

VOLUME 10 DECEMBER 2020

45<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

# BEYOND THE PIPELINE

A Newsletter for Our Pipeline Communities

Our Story, Your  
**Community**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

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## 45TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

*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

### 45 years of Nation Building

On 22nd August 2020, NGC celebrated its sapphire anniversary; 45 years of operations. To mark the occasion, a virtual celebration was held where we launched the Company's new corporate song, introduced a social media video series called, 'This Is Home', and shared a virtual cake. In this issue of *Beyond the Pipeline*, my message will be longer than usual. I want to give you a picture of NGC's early Community Relations programme and its evolution into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Community Relations at NGC was initially centred around building capacity in pipeline communities, providing skills training and self-development programmes as well as running a community-based basketball league for several years. Part of our needs assessment in communities included a community-recommended component that would result in the construction of pavilions around football and cricket fields, repairs to community centres that were used for bringing communities together for a variety of events and lighting of community grounds. We used our resources and those



LISA MARIA BURKETT  
MANAGER, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, NGC

of the community to leave them in a better place than they would have been before NGC's intervention. During major pipeline construction activities, we also developed and maintained relationships with the communities through which these pipelines passed.

Over the years, organisations worldwide have been encouraged to show due care and diligence for the social and economic interests of the country in which





## Message from the Manager, Corporate Communications (continued)



### NGC Right on Track

Supporting track and field as well as basketball fundamentals in schools and communities.

### National Association of Athletics Administrators (NAAA)

Supporting the NAAA in developmental initiatives, competition and training programmes.



Partnership with The UWI Supporting the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Research

Continuation of the Trevor Boopsingh Energy Endowment Fund



NGC Bocas Lit Festival

NGC Sanfest

**Tassa Drumming Sponsorships**  
 Bao Simba Entertainers from Tobago and Sweet Tassa Enterprises from Princes Town

**Steelband Sponsorships**  
 NGC Steel Xplosion;  
 NGC La Brea Nightingales and NGC Couva Joylanders; support to Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra



Sponsorship of Police Youth Clubs

Sponsorship of five (5) Police Youth Clubs: Couva, La Brea, Mayaro, Laventille Road and Penal

### Pan Manufacturing & Tuning programme

NGC partnered with MIC Institute of Technology to deliver a customised pan manufacturing and tuning programme

**NGC Shooting Stars** programme partnered with the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) to develop a film programme



Reforestation Programme

Renewable Energy/Energy Literacy series

they operate. Many companies have sought to give back to their communities beyond simple philanthropic efforts, by addressing socioeconomic challenges; or by supporting campaigns around health issues and disease eradication; or education and literacy as well as poverty reduction among the most vulnerable.

It is at this point that our portfolio expanded from just Community Relations to more of a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) focus. NGC also extended its Community Relations programme to be more national in scope, and in some cases, to address social issues.

During this period of shifting focus, NGC looked at five key areas (pillars) in its CSR portfolio. Under these pillars we established several initiatives and partnerships.

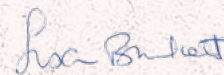
We have supported cricket, track and field at all levels, and school and community

sports. We focused on the preservation of who we are as a people with our support to steelbands and film production; promotion of young and emerging writers; performance festivals, choirs and orchestras. Our partnership with The University of the West Indies (The UWI) extends over 20 years, and we have had a similarly long relationship with NIHERST.

We have carried out a 15-year reforestation programme, which we aim to continue into future phases and from which we will be measuring carbon emissions and carbon sequestration. We have supported many NGOs over the years in carrying out their work. As we evolved from Community Relations into CSR, we have been cognisant of the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and have aligned many of our projects with the mandates of these goals.

From this point forward we are looking at sustainability as a main tenet. The

Green Agenda, which includes energy efficiency and energy transition, renewables, and climate action, is a space in which NGC will play a pivotal role. We are approaching our CSR partnerships through the lens of sustainability. We are seeking to create opportunities in communities in which we operate to assist them on the road to sustainability. We are examining our work processes to be more in line with the UN SDGs. It is the axis on which our programmes will revolve, as it is the only way to ensure tangible benefits for future generations. We hope that our story helps shine a light on the contribution that NGC has made and continues to make to the nation.



**Lisa Maria Burkett**  
 Manager, Corporate Communications,  
 NGC



## Hasely Crawford on NGC's early Community Relations programme

Hasely Joachim Crawford TC is a former track and field athlete, who, in 1976, became this country's first Olympic gold medallist and the first Olympic 100m champion from a Caribbean country. After Hasely retired from track and field, he was employed at NGC from 1993 to 2010, first as a Community Relations Officer and then as Head, Community Relations. He was a part of the early development and implementation of NGC's Community Relations programme. Hasely, who was the first honoured hero of NGC's Above and Beyond Programme, is passionate about building strong communities. He shared his experience with us.

### When did you start Community Relations in NGC?

The idea of Community Relations at NGC was proposed in the 1980s and early 1990s when several foreign companies wanted to invest in Trinidad and Tobago and in NGC. At that time, young people were not engaged in the positive activities and sustainable programmes that usually attract investors. This was one way we thought we could reach disaffected youth.

The initial goal of NGC's Community Relations was to put forward solutions to assist young persons. A survey was conducted to find out the reasons why young people were involved in crime and deviant behaviour. One of the results



**Hasely Joachim Crawford, TC**

from the survey indicated that youths were interested in sport, especially playing basketball, but there was no facility available. This led NGC to form a partnership with the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago (NBFTT) where NGC started refurbishing and building basketball courts - 46 in total - at a cost of TT\$10 million.

Another issue highlighted by the survey was a lack of employment. In response to this NGC supported the Marine Environmental Awareness Programme (MEAP). This programme was delivered in conjunction with MIC, the Ministry of Agriculture - Fisheries Division, and The Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI). Young persons were exposed to fishing and life-saving skills. Persons were taught to build boats and engine repairs, whereas the women were taught how

to make ham with turkey, duck, beef and pork.

In early 2000, NGC wanted to expand its pipeline network, and this required access to communities where the pipeline would be constructed. NGC offered employment opportunities and training in skills such as welding to residents, to build relationships in these communities.

As the years went on, the MEAP programme evolved to meet the needs on the ground. NGC formed a partnership with the Ministry of Community Development. They did a needs assessment in Moruga, but they did not have funding for the required intervention. We worked with them to purchase sewing machines. Instead of having to go to Port of Spain to buy school uniforms, two groups in the area formed cooperatives to make and sell uniforms. They also made curtains, sheets and pillowcases to sell.

NGC also bought stoves, pots and pans to teach cooking and develop catering businesses to provide for school feeding programmes, meals for homes for the aged and orphanages. Training was offered in caring for geriatric persons, cake and pastry-making.

### What were the responses from people who received the programmes?

Young persons and communities appreciated the programmes as these provided opportunities for them to improve their future. Youths started to play basketball, which took their attention away from other destructive activities. Small business sprung up as members from the community began selling items during basketball games such as popcorn, snow cones and soft drinks.

### What was the most impactful Community Relations Programme in your opinion?

All the programmes were wonderful, but the construction of the home for the aged in La Brea touched my heart. The community was overjoyed, this led them to believe in and trust NGC and this relationship proved fruitful for the Company in the future.



**Hasely Crawford comic book launch 2019**



## The Early Years

### The National Skills Development Programme

NGC was mandated by the Government to propose a solution to the declining levels of skilled labour in the country, particularly in view of the promising growth within the gas-based and heavy industrial sectors. The result of extended research by NGC into training systems worldwide led to a partnership between The National Skills Development Programme (NSDP) and the government. The aim was to offer youth advanced technological training to build the pool of technical skills demanded by the industrial sector and stimulate industrial growth. The programme was based on the German Dual Apprenticeship System which allows for trainees to learn within a working or factory environment. Qualifications received through this programme were recognised and accepted worldwide.



Apprentice at work in Germany



Coastal Community Development

### Marine Environmental Awareness Programme (MEAP)

The Coastal Villages Education Project was the backbone of NGC's Marine Environmental Awareness Programme (MEAP). It was administered in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard with the support of institutions such as the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute (CFTDI) and Bowen Marine Limited.

The Programme, which began in 1993, was aimed at transforming the vision of coastal residents to see their marine resources as both a source of livelihood and as their heritage to be valued and preserved. It exposed unemployed young people aged 14 to 25 to skills such as survival at sea; safety at sea; lifeguard training; boat building and maintenance; outboard engine repairs; fish technology; fruit processing; fabrication of fish processing equipment; meat curing and taxidermy. Another goal of this programme was to have the graduates conduct regular patrols on all the beaches in the North Coast to minimise the incidence of drowning and other difficulties experienced by bathers.



NGC's Community Basketball League

### NGC's Community Basketball Project

This project entailed the refurbishment and construction of basketball courts in communities throughout the country and the sponsorship of the Community Basketball League. For the participants throughout Trinidad and Tobago, the programme developed a sense of community, of hope, and of achievement. It provided the less privileged youth in the country with much-needed facilities while deepening and widening interest in the sport. It encouraged community spirit and camaraderie among participating teams. The league was administered in conjunction with the National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago (NBFTT). Over 1,600 young persons from 27 communities came together to develop sportsmanship at a local level.



The late Dr. Pat Bishop, TC, and musical director of the Lydian Singers

### The Lydian Singers

NGC holds an appreciation for the richness of this country's culture. NGC sponsored the nationally acclaimed Lydian Singers led by Trinity Cross Holder, Dr. Pat Bishop for the period 1991 to 2014. This partnership had multiple benefits, and allowed NGC to make culture more easily accessible to the people while providing the Lydians with support.



NCC believes that to develop sport in Trinidad and Tobago one must begin at the primary school level, as it is at this level that one can identify early on, true talent which can then be nurtured until it reaches its true potential. Young competitors are also exposed to clean, healthy, fun sporting activity in the true spirit of sportsmanship.



### March Past at NGC's Zonal Track and Field Games at Gilbert Park, PI Lisas





## Myles Lewis, Head CSR on current CSR programmes

**Corporate Social Responsibility programmes – Where are we now?**  
NGC has always had a robust suite of CSR programmes, from its signature

NGC Right on Track programme to a rich involvement in the preservation of the nation's Arts and Culture. Below is a list of some of NGC's current programmes and supported organisations/initiatives:



### Arts and Culture



#### NGC Bocas Lit Festival

Sponsorship of annual literary festival and supporting activities to schools and communities. Includes Children's caravan and school visits.

#### NGC Sanfest

Sponsorship of a national arts festival and competition that caters to children at the primary and secondary school levels.

#### Tassa Drumming

Sponsorships  
Continued sponsorship of two (2) tassa drum bands – Bao Simba Entertainers from Tobago and Sweet Tassa Enterprises from Princes Town.

#### Steelband Sponsorships

The title sponsorship of three (3) steelbands in our site communities  
- NGC Steel Xplosion;  
NGC La Brea Nightingales and NGC Couva Joylanders;  
support to Gonzales Sheikers Steel Orchestra.

### Sport



#### Sponsorship of Primary school games

Annual support to our pipeline school districts games by way of sponsorship of St Patrick and Caroni Educational District Games and Moruga Zonal Games.

#### NGC Right on Track

NGC's signature track and field programme that introduces youth to track and field as well as basketball fundamentals in schools and communities.

#### Partnership with the National Association of Athletics Administrators (NAAA)

Support to National Track and Field Association in developmental initiatives, competition, and training programmes.

### Education



#### Partnership with The UWI

- Supported the Eric Williams Memorial Collection
- Contributions to the University's Graduate and Research Fund
- Sponsorship of The UWI Research Awards, Research Forum, Research Expo and a Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Contributed to the Trevor Boopsingh Energy Research Endowment
- support to The UWI's Collaborative COVID-19 Engineering and Manufacturing Initiative – a Ventilator Development Project.

### Environmental Preservation



#### Reforestation Programme

Reforestation of hectares lost from pipeline construction activities in Cross Island Pipeline (CIP), Beachfield Upstream Development (BUD) and Union estate construction. The programme continued from its 2006 inception and in 2019, maintenance of phases continued.

#### Energy Education

Renewable Energy/ Energy Literacy series started in 2018 in partnership with NGO IAMovement to produce a series of three (3) REthinking Energy videos

#### Energy SmarTT App

Launched in 2020 mobile app developed in-house to educate and sensitise the national public around the issue of energy efficiency.



## Education and Empowerment and Youth Development



### Sponsorship of Police Youth Clubs

Sponsorship of five (5) Police Youth Clubs: Couva, La Brea, Mayaro, Laventille Road and Penal. This partnership evolved in 2019 to deliver Technical Vocational training to the youth club membership in partnership with YTEPP Ltd. Sponsorship of Police Youth Clubs

### Pan Manufacturing & Tuning programme

NGC partnered with MIC Institute of Technology to deliver a customised pan manufacturing and tuning programme to membership of its sponsored steelbands. Support of a pan score transcription project

### Couva Children's Home and Crisis Centre

Support to the home in NGC's fenceline community. This home continues to provide support to socially displaced children.

### NGC Shooting Stars programme

As part of ongoing efforts to support and develop a national film industry, NGC partnered with the trinidad+tobago film festival (ttff) for a film development programme 'NGC Shooting Stars', for secondary schools.

### Families in Action

By supporting this non-profit, NGC committed to the upliftment and healing of families and individuals ravaged by drug addiction and social abuse, through counselling and group support.



### What are your objectives/goals for these programmes?

Whilst NGC's CSR programmes may be categorised by various pillars, they are all implemented in fulfilment of our commitment to national development. "Strengthening our National Contribution" is part of NGC's business strategy and our strategy for sustainable development. Our suite of programmes seeks to position NGC within the top three for CSR recognition regionally and top three for sustainability advocacy regionally. Our CSR programmes are also in alignment with the UN SDGs.

The objectives identified in goals such as SDG 11 Sustainable Communities and Cities and SDG 13 Climate Action are the guides by which we develop, measure, and disclose the particulars of our CSR projects. NGC's CSR objectives are strategically in step with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's (GORTT's) Vision 2030 plan for national development.

### What do you hope to achieve in the future with these programmes?

CSR as a field has evolved from philanthropy, to involvement in programmes for public relations purposes, to now, one that is closely linked to business strategy. Corporate citizenship has evolved from community economic development which was once considered a "nice to do" to a "must do." CSR at NGC will continue to evolve, and this progression is rooted in the concept

of business sustainability and community economic development, which speaks to the triple bottom line - "People, Planet, Profit."

### How will the new direction of sustainability, affect CSR at NGC?

At NGC, our CSR philosophy ensures that we work to increase the positive impacts and reduce the negative impacts of our operations. Our focus as a Company now extends beyond that of financial prosperity to include consideration of environmental/climate impact service, energy education and public awareness, carbon sequestration, energy audit and energy transition on the communities in which we operate.





## NGC's Stakeholders

Over the years, NGC has contributed to many different groups and causes, and beneficiaries have responded positively to our support. Below are some testimonials received over the years.



### Laventille Road Police Youth Club

Superintendent Curtis Paul, leader of the Laventille Road Police Youth Club, sees the club as having further mobilised and united the community into a more cohesive group. "The Steel Orchestra has been the 'engine room' that has promoted the community; they have travelled all over the country to play the national instrument in the presence of dignitaries, schools, etc." According to WPC Jasmine Vesprey David, "It definitely has a positive impact on the communities, as people love to see their kids involved in supervised activities. The greater good is accomplished."



### NGC Sanfest

Mr. Debie, Principal (Acting) at the Arima North Secondary School said, "Sanfest is an excellent festival. When one of our students entered the finals and won, we were ecstatic." He also said, "At the school, we believe in holistic education and when students perform well, it boosts their confidence. Being able to perform, compete and express themselves at this forum, helps students to develop, grow and deal with challenges and Sanfest is the perfect outlet for this."



### NGC T&T Sweet Tassa

The NGC-sponsored Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Founder and Manager Mr. Lenny Kumar, praised NGC for providing the foundation for the establishment of the academy. He said, "Our sponsor – NGC – guided us in the right direction through its unique capacity-building programme. The programme has helped us develop and strengthen our skill set to be able to adapt and thrive in this fast-changing world."



Michael George, member of the Laventille Police Youth Club attends hair braiding and weaving class

### NGC collaborates with The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) to provide life skills training 2019

NGC and its sponsored Police Youth Clubs (PYC) – Couva, Penal, La Brea, Laventille Road, and Mayaro – wanted to offer its members an opportunity to gain more sustainable and marketable skills. The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) was approached to provide the programmes which included: Introduction to electrical installation, electronics for beginners, barbering and hair braiding and weaving. The programmes were conducted during July and August 2019.

Michael George is a member of the Laventille PYC. He enjoys hairdressing and jumped at the opportunity to participate in a hair braiding and weaving course offered. According to Michael, "I chose hair braiding and weaving because I wanted to be one of the guys to break the barrier and stigma that comes with males pursuing hairdressing and makeup. I wanted to be one of the young people that create change and influence others who wanted to pursue hairdressing and are afraid."



## NGC's Above and Beyond Programme recognises ALTA

Launched in 2017, NGC's Above and Beyond Programme is an initiative to recognise and preserve the legacies of achievers and national contributors for future generations.

The programme's main objectives are to provide opportunities for the national public to reflect on the contributions made by these selected nationals and/or groups to the development of Trinidad and Tobago, and to preserve the legacy of their contributions by shining a spotlight on their work.

In 2020, NGC chose to recognise The Adult Literacy Tutors Association, commonly called ALTA for its outstanding national contribution in teaching adult literacy. ALTA, a non-profit organisation in existence since 1992, provides the only comprehensive, structured adult literacy programme in Trinidad and Tobago. It has trained literacy tutors in Grenada, St. Vincent and Antigua using the ALTA approach and materials.

As a non-governmental organisation, ALTA uses easily accessible public spaces as venues for its classes, ranging from community centres and libraries to schools and churches. Literacy instruction is available free to the public and students pay only TT\$20 for workbooks each term.



### ALTA'S MISSION

1. **Provide free and effective adult literacy classes for persons 16 years and over.**
2. **Develop and publish local adult literacy materials.**
3. **Create and maintain a bank of trained and experienced professional literacy tutors.**
4. **Maintain resource libraries of materials and teaching aids for ALTA tutors.**
5. **Through sponsored programmes, support literacy efforts within NGOs, the workplace, government initiatives and specific communities.**

In this anniversary year, the NGC-sponsored ALTA Online Pilot was rolled out in two phases (May – July 2020 and October 2020 into 2021). Phase One saw 40 students completing Level 1 Book 1. This will give ALTA the essential feedback from students on what works and what can be changed to guide the development team.

#### Why did we choose ALTA?

The Manager Corporate Communications noted that 'Literacy is key to removing barriers and providing a path to success for all members of society'. When individuals learn how to read and write, they have the power to lift themselves out of poverty, take better care of their health, find and keep sustainable employment, and to ultimately change their lives.

At NGC we feel compelled to help our citizens develop and ALTA provides the avenue for learning. We support and recognise ALTA's invaluable contribution to our nation.



## Communicating with our Stakeholders

### '#Trinidadisarealplace' video series

COVID-19 has forced us to rethink how we do business, communicate, engage, and connect with our fenceline communities and partners.

In early 2020, NGC directly contributed to measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. As the months progressed, NGC took a proactive approach to information sharing and made a deliberate effort to shape the conversations about its business in public spaces and the media. Several programmes were developed which highlighted Trinidad and Tobago

and these would also contribute to NGC recognition programme for its 45th Anniversary. These programmes included:

'#Trinidadisarealplace' video series featured stories of communities and community groups around Trinidad and Tobago. These videos were aired on local television station TTT.

The videos can be found on NGC's website at [https://ngc.co.tt/ngc\\_gallery/trinidad-is-a-real-place](https://ngc.co.tt/ngc_gallery/trinidad-is-a-real-place)

Features of the programme included:

- Fishing Pond
- NGC T&T Sweet Tassa
- Cropper Foundation Empowering communities
- Autism - National Centre for Persons with Disabilities.
- NGC Couva Joylanders
- ALTA - Adult Literacy Tutors Association
- NGC NAAA - Youth Elite
- NGC - Bao Simba
- David Muhammad/Kwame Ture Centre

Look out for a second instalment of '#Trinidadisarealplace' in 2021.

### 'This Is Home' video series



[https://ngc.co.tt/ngc\\_gallery/this-is-home/](https://ngc.co.tt/ngc_gallery/this-is-home/)

'This Is Home' is a staycation campaign showcasing both hidden and familiar destinations in Trinidad and Tobago that many locals may overlook.

These videos were aired on all NGC's social media platforms and can still be viewed on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

'This Is Home' featured:

- Grande Riviere

- Columbus Bay
- Charlotteville
- Brasso Seco
- Moruga

A Christmas edition was also aired.



You can visit [www.ngc.co.tt](http://www.ngc.co.tt) to view all articles and videos.



## Driving Sustainable Growth

### NGC publishes Sustainability Report



You can visit  
[www.ngc.co.tt](http://www.ngc.co.tt)  
to view all the  
reports.

NGC launched its Sustainability Report 2019, themed, 'Driving Sustainable Growth' on Wednesday 16th December 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the event was held virtually. The report outlines information on the Company's main achievements, activities, and opportunities for improvements. NGC's first and second Sustainability Reports covered the years 2017 and 2018 respectively.

#### Why the sustainability report?

Sustainability Reports contain information about the economic, environmental, and social impacts caused by a company's everyday activities. It is a key platform for communicating sustainability performance, whether they are positive or negative. The value of sustainability reporting is that it ensures organisations consider their impacts on sustainability issues and enables them to be transparent about the risks and opportunities they face. It is a useful risk management tool that can help generate savings and help in better decision-making.



According to NGC's President, Mr. Mark Loquan, "Our Sustainability Report is showing where we started sustainability reporting. What you see hopefully are growth and improvements. This is not a report where you see everything perfect. It is where you show your current situation and most important is to show that you are improving and that

you are meeting the areas that are linked to our sustainable development goals in areas such as Corporate Governance and Compliance, Human Capital, Health, Safety, Security and Development, Asset Integrity, Local Growth and Internationalisation, Corporate Social Responsibility and Energy Efficiency."







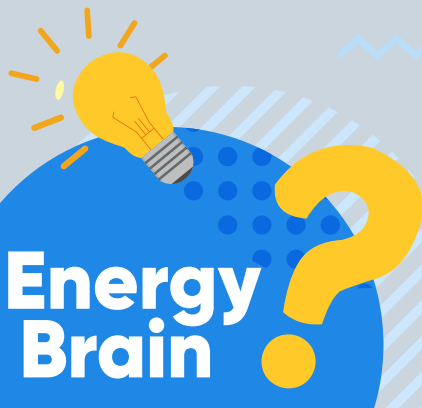


## Photos of the Month



**NGC Building 1976:** 50 Pembroke Street, Port of Spain. This building went on to serve as NGC's first warehouse.

**NGC Building 1980:** Corner Murray Street and Ariapita Avenue. There was also a shed in La Romaine for storage of tools.



## Buster

1. Community Relations at NGC started in the late 1980s and early 1990s.
2. NGC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2020.
3. The aim of NGC's early Community Relations programmes was to provide opportunities for young persons and employment.
4. There is always room for improvement when it comes to satisfying stakeholders.
5. For Hasely Crawford, the most memorable Community Relations Programme was the Caroni Games.
6. NGC did not support the Lydian Singers in the past.
7. During the COVID-19 pandemic NGC continued to support community and country.
8. One of NGC's early Community Relations programmes gave support to football.
9. The name of NGC's sponsored TTT programme is #trinidadisnotareaplace.
10. NGC's first Sustainability Report covered the year 2017.

ANSWERS: 1) TRUE 2) FALSE 3) TRUE 4) TRUE 5) FALSE 6) FALSE 7) TRUE 8) FALSE 9) FALSE 10) TRUE



