

NGC's Response to the article in the Sunday Express of June 9, 2013

*“\$800M contract
for top government
financier”*

The idea to construct new corporate headquarters for The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) was initially conceived in 2005. Since then, a number of sites were considered, but it was not until March 2013, that a 42-acre parcel of State land, located at Brechin Castle, was offered and accepted.

NGC's Board of Directors agreed that NIPDEC, a state-owned organisation that provides a diversified portfolio of services, including project/procurement/facilities management to other state agencies, would be able to meet the needs of NGC for this project. This decision was taken in light of the limited in-house resources available to NGC to undertake this project. NIPDEC was subsequently engaged to provide procurement, design, construction and project management services for NGC's new corporate headquarters. They were given a strict deadline to deliver the new headquarters by the end of 2014, or for the latest early 2015. NIPDEC was also charged with handling the tendering process, given its alignment with state tendering procedures.

It is to be noted that on May 10, 2013, **NIPDEC issued tenders to bidders from its list of pre-qualified contractors.** Bidders were advised that bids would close on June 7, 2013. However, following requests from bidders for additional time, an extension to June 21, 2013 was given for the submission of tenders.

Contrary to the article in the Sunday Express of June 9, 2013, no contractor has been identified or tipped to undertake the project for construction of NGC's corporate headquarters.

We are confident in NIPDEC's tendering process for the delivery of the best value to NGC. **At this time, the tender remains open and will close on June 21, 2013.**