

**REMARKS BY LARRY HOWAI, CHAIRMAN,
THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
FAREWELL TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
AND DELEGATES FROM TANZANIA
25 MAY 2012**

Dear friends

Tonight is a night for relaxing after what must have been an exhausting week for you. You have been on the go, morning and night. There has been plenty for you to absorb. Did you imagine that Trinidad & Tobago, which can fit into Tanzania 184 times!, had so much to show you?

This is our last evening together. I am very happy to be sharing the fine things of T&T life with you: good local food and entertainment. I will not change the informal tone of the night with a long discussion about our natural gas industry, and the NGC model for developing it, and the opportunities for both of us because of it. If that message is not already clear to you, then we have both been doing something wrong!

I will remark on the fact that we are sharing our first anniversary this month, you and us—although we only met a week ago.

A year ago in May, the first fact-finding delegation from Tanzania arrived on our shores. How far we have come since then! The MOU signed in February between The National Gas Company of Trinidad & Tobago, the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad & Tobago, and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Company, will open up opportunities for both our energy sectors and the people who are and will be employed in them.

The landmark MOU will also strengthen NGC's and NEC's presence in Africa. Both companies are exploring business opportunities in this important emerging market.

It is consistent with the strategic objective articulated by our Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs, Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, which is to take the Trinidad & Tobago energy sector from local and regional, to global. During your visit, our Government has been a constant presence, ensuring that it all flowed smoothly, and that you were afforded every courtesy. On the Government's behalf, I hope that you feel that all your expectations were met.

Although I have not had the pleasure, yet, of visiting your beautiful country, I understand that Tanzanians are very proud of the enormous diversity of people, natural resources and culture. The world loves your art and music, your national parks are among the great tourist attractions, and you have mineral resources whose richness is still just guesswork. You are a country of many superlatives, some of which I will share with people here tonight who, like me, have a trip to Tanzania on their bucket list. As you will know from the movie of the same name, a 'bucket list' is all the things you simply have to do in life before you kick the bucket. Here is why Tanzania is on my list:

. Tanzania is one of the oldest known inhabited areas on Earth; fossil remains of humans and pre-humans have been found dating back nearly two million years. Now there is a fact that humbles me! Here we are tonight, celebrating the evolution that our alliance creates in our mutual energy sectors. It is of such great importance to us today and for the future. But wrap your mind around an evolution that is two million years old! Your country, Your Excellencies and honoured guests, is one of the exclusive places on earth known as a cradle of humanity. That is something very special.

Some other interesting superlatives about Tanzania:

. Tanzania is home to Africa's highest mountain—Mount Kilimanjaro
. It is where we would find Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria, and the deepest lake, Lake Tanganyika. And in Lake Tanganyika is a species of fish found nowhere else in the world.

. This year, one of the largest rare earths oxide deposits in the world was found inside a collapsed volcano in Tanzania. I will not attempt to pronounce the Swahili name for the volcano, but the English translation is “bald head”...

. My last fact for the night is that Tanzanite, a precious and very beautiful blue-purple gemstone, is found only in Tanzania.

You come from a country that is very blessed in its natural resources, as are we, here, in Trinidad & Tobago. We are encouraged by the new friends we are making—friends like you— as NGC pursues our strategy to build a global brand.

I would like to close on a quote which seems eminently fitting in terms of what you set out to achieve from your visit here, when you arrived a short week ago. It is a quote by one of your Olympic athletes, a marathon runner called John Stephen Akwari. You probably know it; his words were immortalized in a BBC documentary at the time, back in 1968. It was the Olympics in Mexico. Akwari was the last person into the Stadium, the winners had received their medals, and most of the spectators had gone home. Akwari struggled to circle the track and cross the finish line. The BBC filmmaker was intrigued at the drive and determination of this young man. He asked Akwari, as he lay exhausted after the race, why he had bothered to reach the finish line.

The young man from Tanzania did not have to search for an answer.

"My country," he said, "did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race. They sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race."

Honoured guests, we have a race to run.

Thank you.