

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Remarks T20 Franchise Cricket Tournament

By

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I am pleased to here with you today to participate in the launch of the first ever T20 Franchise Cricket tournament in Trinidad and Tobago. Just last week in this same place the National Gas Company announced a major investment in local cricket as part of our commitment to sport and the development of the nation's youth. Our support of this unique franchise tournament is therefore in keeping with the NGC philosophy.

We at NGC wish to congratulate the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board for their professional and businesslike approach to the development of cricket throughout the country. We also acknowledge QPCC and WICB for partnering with TTCB on this tournament. NGC is also happy to be partnering on this occasion with the Tourism Development Company. We believe that this tournament has tremendous potential for the development of sports tourism. And although the energy sector continues to be the main driver of the local economy, NGC fully supports the Government's thrust towards economic diversification including tourism development.

I expect that this tournament will create considerable excitement not only in Trinidad and Tobago but across the cricketing world. More importantly it will provide a wonderful example to other national sporting organizations of the possibilities for sustainable development in sport. The 2020 version of cricket has taken the world by storm in recent years with huge crowds in attendance and an even bigger television

audience. This has opened up new entrepreneurial opportunities not only for persons involved in cricket but for small, medium and large-scale entrepreneurs especially in the hospitality industry. Trinidad and Tobago is ideally positioned to maximize these emerging business opportunities since international visitors can relish a wide variety of attractions in addition to enjoying the exciting cricket on the field of play.

With careful nurturing and proper planning this tournament can evolve in time to rival the more well-known competitions in India, Bangladesh and Australia. Given our geographic location as a gateway to the Americas, it can become the ideal vehicle for expanding the game of cricket in the western hemisphere. This is a vision the NGC can appreciate and support since we are also a company with a growing international reputation for excellence and high quality.

Apart from the economic benefits the T20 Franchise Tournament also offers scope for social and human development especially with regard to the young people of the region. One of the guiding principles of NGC's Corporate Social Responsibility programme is the holistic development of the youth. We have implemented numerous CSR programmes for youth development at both national and community levels and the feedback has been extremely positive. We believe that the youth of the nation are second to none and when given the opportunities and the proper guidance they will excel. Tournaments such as these are extremely valuable because in addition to top class entertainment they give the young cricketers a sense of purpose and tangible rewards for outstanding performance.

Like most new and innovative projects there may be teething problems along the way. This is to be expected but with perseverance great success lies ahead. We at NGC are confident that the best is yet to come for cricket and for our youth.