

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Sponsor Remarks

Sanfest Media Lime 2012

It is indeed a pleasure to be here this evening to join with our friends in the media to celebrate Sanfest 2012, one of the foremost cultural events in Trinidad and Tobago. The National Junior Arts Festival, popularly called Sanfest, is staged annually by the San Fernando Arts Council to “encourage the nurturing and establishment of the Performing, Literary and Visual Arts in schools”. Other key objectives of the festival include “providing experiences that will assist in the holistic development of students throughout the country, as well as providing a forum for the exploration of the child’s creative ability”.

On behalf of the National Gas Company I wish to express our deep appreciation for the wonderful work that the San Fernando Arts Council has done over the years; Sanfest is their brainchild; and, the contribution of this organization to the development of the Arts in south Trinidad and the wider national community has been truly remarkable.

Sanfest has traditionally focused on students 19 years and under who attend primary, secondary and technical schools and this is in keeping with NGC’s commitment to the overall development of youth. The theme for Sanfest 2012 is ‘The Arts- A Pathway to Motivation, Inspiration and Unity’ and this

highlights the important role of the arts in youth development. It not only provides a forum for creative expression, but it also encourages self-discipline among participants and builds their self-esteem.

This finds many links with NGC's philosophy that guides our Corporate Social Responsibility programmes which is based on a firm belief in the ability of citizens to achieve excellence in all walks of life, including the Arts. Many persons who participated in their youthful days at Sanfest have since risen to national and international prominence including renowned pianist Liam Teague and the phenomenal Machel Montano. The National Junior Arts Festival therefore serves as an important platform for the launching of successful careers in the Arts. As a result we can look forward to the emergence of more outstanding young talent in the years ahead.

NGC's commitment to the youth of the nation extends to all aspects of their lives. In sport, for instance, NGC has established itself as a major sponsor of youth development activities such as basketball, cricket, netball and track and field. In education, our support includes the sponsorship of numerous training workshops throughout the country as well as the NGC/NIHERST National Science Centre. In addition there is the highly acclaimed NGC Bocas Lit Fest which is one of the leading literary festivals in the region. In music, earlier this year we partnered with Pan Trinbago in staging SteelfesTT, a marvellous tribute to our national instrument.

Our sponsorship of Sanfest however, remains one of the highlights of our annual CSR programme. I therefore wish to express our sincere gratitude to

the San Fernando Arts Council for their efforts in ensuring that this event is staged successfully every year. It is a monumental task to organize this National Junior Arts Festival given the high level of participation and the range of categories that are open to participants. This can only be achieved through the collaboration and cooperation of a wide cross-section of volunteers. In this regard, I wish to express our appreciation for the hardworking members of the Festival Committee and their assistants.

To the media I wish to say thank you for your attendance today and we look forward to your support. Sanfest is an important catalyst for youth development in Trinidad and Tobago since it focuses on the abundant talent of the nation's youth. It provides many wonderful stories of dedication, perseverance and success that require greater public attention and support. It is a forum for the artistry of our young people and it showcases their creative abilities. NGC is proud to be associated with the National Junior Arts Festival and we have no doubt the 2012 edition will be an outstanding success.

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