



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

TTCB Media Conference

Friday 10th January 2014

TTCB President's Box

Queen's Park Oval

11:00 a.m.

Remarks by Mrs. Cassandra Patrovani Sylvester

Vice President, Human and Corporate Relations

SALUTATIONS:

Mr. Azim Bassarath, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Mr. Suruj Ragoonath, CEO of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Mr. Baldath Mahabir, Chairman of Marketing, and Executive Member of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board

Mr. Alec Burns, Chairman of the Selection Committee

Other members of the TTCB executive

Members of the Media

Sports enthusiasts

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

To a good corporate citizen such as NGC, one of the most exciting things about being part of such a rich culture is the endless variety of opportunities to make

our presence felt within our communities. Aside from our many contributions to the energy industry through training and educational programmes, we have been able to reach our fellow citizens through our sponsorship of art, music, culture, and, of course, sport.

And, as you know, sport is why we are all here today. More specifically, we are gathered to celebrate one sport in particular, known as “The Gentleman’s Game”: cricket.

NGC is a Trinidad and Tobago company, born and bred, and, like almost every man, woman and child in this country, we love our cricket and support our teams. What better way to show our patriotism than to invest in a game that has brought international acclaim to some of our greatest athletes?

Over the period 2011 to 2013, NGC sponsored the TTCB developmental programme and its participation in the Champions League. This sponsorship, which was dubbed “the ultimate power play”, amounted to TT\$9.779.

The funds were allocated to a variety of endeavours. For example, over the course of the sponsorship period, NGC was able to help prepare our team for the Nokia Champions League, and to cover the costs of their participation.

The funds also covered sponsorship of the regional and local T20 competitions, as well as the cricket zones in Trinidad and Tobago. Women’s cricket, to be certain, was not neglected, as our female athletes are as keen as the men to fly our national colours high on cricket pitches the world over.

As a company that has been particularly interested in youth development over the years, we were especially excited that a portion of our sponsorship funds

went to support the TTCB's "Grassroots Development Programme", which helps to bring good coaching, equipment and playing areas to young enthusiasts throughout our communities.

A Memorandum of Understanding governing that arrangement also entitled NGC to certain branding and signage rights, which identified us as the official T20 partner. This allowed for NGC, and by extension, Trinidad and Tobago, to have a brand presence in India and South Africa during the Champions League T20 competition.

Additionally, NGC has also been able to contribute to youth development through cricket at the national level through sponsorship of the T20 Cricket Festival, Premiership 50 Over Final, the zones in Trinidad and Tobago, and National Cricket Academy.

We were also excited and gratified to have been associated with the Red Force during its astounding success as three-time Champions at the Caribbean T20.

I am pleased to say that the 2011 to 2013 sponsorship arrangement proved to be so beneficial to all parties that we were approached once again by TTCB to continue our sponsorship for the period 2014 to 2016. We happily agreed to another arrangement which will see NGC disbursing TT\$4.45 Million each year for the period 2014 to 2016.

The funds will be allocated in a similar manner, but with a few changes. The restructuring of the Champions League T20 tournament has led to the item being removed from the funding schedule. In its stead, the TTCB has proposed

a reallocation of these funds towards other areas and the inclusion of new areas of support.

We will, however, continue to lend our support in many traditional areas. We have agreed on title sponsorship of the T20 Festival Competition, which will be held at Guaracara Park, and full sponsorship of the Premiership 50 Over Finals, to be held in May.

Once again, youth development will be on the agenda, as funds will be allocated to provide training for promising young cricketers at the National Academy, and the continued support for the “Grassroots Development Programme”.

The 142 clubs that comprise the 7 Zones in Trinidad, and the 12 clubs in the Tobago Zone, are also in line to receive subventions to cover their activities and expenses.

We are confident that our training and development for umpires and other officials will result in a higher standard of cricket overall.

Women’s cricket will not be left out, as their respective local governing bodies will continue to receive funding.

Cricket lovers in Tobago - our newest frontline community - will benefit as well through our contributions to the Tobago Cricket Association.

And, finally, our sponsorship will support the preparation of the national teams, from Under 13 to Regional Senior teams, for One Day and Four Day Competitions.

We are satisfied that our continued sponsorship will allow us to meet our mandate of creating national value, while contributing towards the development of cricket, which is such a historically important sport for Trinidad and Tobago and, by extension, the Caribbean.

As I close, I would like to extend my congratulations to the members of the Regional Super 50 Team. We look forward to your success in the tournament and look forward to be a part of it. Just as you have learned to count on us, we at NGC, and all of Trinidad and Tobago, are counting on you.

Thank you, and good luck.