

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

NATIONAL GAS CNG DERBY 2011
MEDIA LAUNCH - TEXAS DE BRAZIL
24 JULY 2011

Comments by Roop Chan Chadeesingh - Deputy Chairman, NGC

Good evening to all the media who have come here today for the launch of the National Gas CNG Derby 2011. Someone once said, about sports journalists who cover horse racing, “the great thing is that you never have to run after the winner to ask him for a few words”! So, I expect you all to turn out for Derby Day next Monday!

NGC is sponsoring the race day at Santa Rosa Park with great expectations. As you know - or we hope you know, by now! - NGC has been enhancing the lives of people who live near our operations - what we affectionately call our “Fence Line Communities” - for many years. Wholly-owned by the Government, and therefore the people of T&T, we take our responsibility to the socio-economic development of our people very seriously. The NGC name is synonymous with projects in education and training, arts and culture, sports and the environment. Our community programmes are designed with the national interest at the forefront, and we embrace events that bring families and communities together in a spirit of fun and fellowship. I don’t have to tell you that life today is very high-pressured. We are so busy DOING the job, or DOING the homework supervision, or DOING the chores, or DOING the travelling from A, to B, to C. Families and friends are finding it harder and harder to make the time to enjoy each other’s company, and to just BE parents, or BE friendly competitors, or BE people sharing a passion for a sport.

Just when NGC was seeking a presence in new areas of involvement, this opportunity presented itself.

Racing has a long and illustrious history in Trinidad & Tobago, going back nearly two centuries to 1828. It is a sport that nurtures much more than just the horses

and the 1,000 or so owners, trainers, grooms and riders. The *industry* of horse racing and breeding gives employment to many hundreds of Trinbagonians from one end of the country to the next. From farmers and masons to engineers, from unskilled labour to highly-skilled specialists, horse racing unites their efforts. **The industry employs about 2,000 persons who would probably only get work on an *ad hoc* basis.** Santa Rosa Park itself is surrounded by the villages of Evergreen, Carapo, Jokhan Trace and Peytonville, where there are few employment opportunities outside of the race track.

When you consider the racing audience, we are talking about a sport which attracts many thousands of people. At many as 5,000 may attend the National Gas CNG Derby 2011 at Santa Rosa Park. Many more thousands will be tuned in to the electronic media, sharing the fever of competition, and the energy of the race.

Which brings me to a different kind of energy source: Compressed Natural Gas. This sport, and this Derby after which it is named, share many characteristics, the most important of which is that they are environment friendly. Neither horses, nor CNG, produce by-products which are harmful to the environment, and yet they are capable of great propulsion. CNG is one of the most viable alternatives to traditional liquid fuels for vehicles here in T&T. CNG is cheaper - one third of the price of super gasoline. It is the way of the future. NGC is putting the infrastructure and resources behind the move to this sustainable energy resource for the country.

On the job, our friends and partners in the energy industry know NGC for our safe and reliable operations.

When we are relaxing and enjoying our recreational and sporting activities, the same tenets apply. So on behalf of NGC and our hosts and lead partners for the National Gas CNG Derby, the Arima Race Club, may we all experience a safe and enjoyable event on Emancipation Day, August 1st, 2011.

I very much look forward to seeing you all there.

Thank you.

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

NATIONAL GAS CNG DERBY 2011
DINNER PRESENTATION - JOSEPHS
29th JULY 2011

Roop Chan Chadeesingh - Deputy Chairman, NGC

Friends, you will be glad to hear that I shall be short, and sweet. After my few words there is no need for you to have any more dessert tonight!

There are two points that I would like to make this evening, neither of which is specifically about the illustrious sport of horse racing. Both points are about setting an example, whether as a nation, a company, or individuals in our private capacities.

The first point is about Emancipation. As you know, Monday is Emancipation Day in Trinidad & Tobago. On August 1st, 1985, Trinidad & Tobago became the first country *in the world* to declare a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery in 1833. Many others have since followed suit. This is what I mean about setting an example. It takes just one to make the first move, and others will join in.

While the *National Gas CNG Derby 2011* is taking place at Santa Rosa Park, Emancipation Day will be recognized in numerous cultural ways in communities the length and breadth of our country. It is important that we remember our historical landmarks. They are the signposts which guide the direction of our national development.

We at NGC play a part in contributing to these celebrations. Without government and corporate sponsorship, the people who work very hard at putting together memorable events would find it almost impossible to do so. NGC is a state company - it is owned by the people of Trinidad & Tobago - and we take that responsibility

very seriously. Our reach is a long one. It penetrates all levels and areas of our society...rather like the pipelines we construct. NGC pipelines criss-cross the country, hidden under the earth, carrying vital fuel to industrial estates and large facilities which absolutely, must have a constant and copious energy supply. Our *job* is to support commercial development. Our *heart* is in supporting people development.

My second point has to do with compressed natural gas. Tomorrow's Derby Day is dubbed the *National Gas CNG Derby 2011*. You may wonder, "what does this have to do with me?"

CNG is not top of mind for most of us. We might have seen pictures of the storage cylinder, taking up space in a car trunk. You might have said, "Not me! I am not spoiling my nice vehicle with that!"

I ask you to think again. And I say this to you because the people in this room are leaders, in one way or another. You can convince others to follow your example.

CNG is considered the most viable alternative to traditional liquid transportation fuels here in T&T. We have a slogan which says that "CNG is Cheaper, Cleaner, Safer, Greener".

Here are a few of the benefits of using CNG in your vehicle:

- . CNG reduces up to 35% of harmful exhaust fumes - those greenhouse gases we hear so much about.
- . CNG costs half the price of super gasoline
- . CNG contains no additives and burns cleanly. This means that your spark plugs and engine oil stay cleaner, for longer, resulting in big cost-savings in maintenance.
- . CNG is a higher octane than gasoline, so your vehicle performs better and more quietly.

It is extremely easy to convert your vehicle to CNG, and soon there will be factory-installed CNG vehicles landing in the country. Government has put in place several

very attractive tax incentives for fleet or vehicle owners who convert to CNG, or buy a CNG vehicle.

There are currently 9 conveniently located CNG filling stations, and 7 more are planned in the foreseeable future.

If we, in Trinidad & Tobago, convert a hundred thousand vehicles to CNG, we can cut down our need for liquid fuel by 30-40%, and reduce our dependence on Government subsidies. Just as importantly, we could reduce the carbon footprint of our transportation sector by 10-15% with a flick of a switch

NGC has elected to lead by example. We've upgraded a large part of our fleet to run on natural gas. The first of these vehicles are expected to arrive before the end of this year. Soon, as a result of our lead, new vehicles will be available in T&T which are CNG factory-outfitted.

My friends, I take back what I said about this little presentation not being about horse racing. If setting the lead is not what horse racing is about, then I don't know what is. Racing is all about the horses that lead the field.

I challenge you, as NGC has been challenged, to take the lead on learning about CNG, and converting to CNG.

Someone once said: "A horse is the projection of peoples' dreams about themselves - strong, powerful, beautiful - and it has the capability of giving us escape from our mundane existence."

I wish us all a great escape on Monday at the *National Gas CNG Derby*. More than that, I wish safe running for the horses and their riders, and to all the people who attend.

Thank you.