

Taking Pan to a Higher Level

Joylanders Get An NGC Boost

“we believe that the steelband movement has the potential to transform the lives of the youth”

“From today, this band will be known as the NGC Couva Joylanders!” These were the words of Indar Maharaj, President of the National Gas Company, as he announced NGC’s decision to sponsor the Couva Joylanders Steel Orchestra.

Since its inception in 1961, Joylanders has been making steady progress and has participated regularly in the annual steelband Panorama competition. In 2009 the band made it to the National Finals - placing 7th in the medium-band category - and has maintained a vibrant stage side which practises and performs throughout the year.



President of NGC, Indar Maharaj, addresses the crowd at the opening ceremony of the NGC Couva Joylanders Pan Complex



Joylander Tenor soloists Natalie London and Avanelle Keshwar show off their talents



The home of the New NGC Couva Joylanders



Parang side Los Merengados perform at the new NGC Couva Joylanders Complex



Joylanders Rhythm Section keep the beat going



(L-R) Joylanders Leon Huggins and David Rajaram get lost in the beat of pan

In addition to sponsorship, NGC has built a brand new Steelband Complex for the band at Railway Road, Couva. The facility was completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Works and Infrastructure. The impressive two-storey building includes a concert hall, classrooms, office accommodation and a paved area for open-air performances.

Mr. Maharaj emphasized, “NGC expects that this facility will become an important venue for youth and community development. We believe that the steelband movement has the potential to transform the lives of the youth.”

Even before the formal sponsorship agreement, NGC had maintained a close relationship with the band, and in August 2011 ten members accompanied an official

NGC delegation on a visit to Ghana. They performed to rave reviews from large audiences at three concerts in Accra, the capital city.

Speaking on behalf of the band, Richard Gill, Manager of NGC Couva Joylanders expressed his gratitude to NGC for its sponsorship. He assured the new sponsors that their confidence was not misplaced and that the band would make NGC and its supporters proud. He added that they intend to use the Steelband Complex to become one of the leading steel orchestras in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Railway Road venue is already buzzing with activity as the NGC Couva Joylanders prepare to dazzle audiences at Panorama in 2013.



A Cello player from the CAL Invaders joins in with Joylanders at their new Complex



Joylanders playing the sweet sound of pan



Steelband members gather in the newly renovated hall in the NGC Couva Joylanders Complex



Joylanders Manager, Richard Gill, receives the keys from Indar Maharaj. In the background are Stefon West, Operations Officer and Nicholas McMillan, Marketing & Communications Officer



Richard Gill as he performs with the Joylanders