



Building Communities, Shaping Young Lives

Contents

BUILDING COMMUNITIES, SHAPING YOUNG LIVES	2
SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMME	4
- Human Capacity Building	7
- Community Facilities Development	8
- Communication and Relationships	10
- Environment	11
30th ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO THE NATION	12
- Education	12
- Housing	12
- Social Projects	13
- Culture/Arts	15
PURSUIING PROGRAMMES THAT WORK	16
- Contributions and Sponsorships	18
- Youth Development	22



BUILDING COMMUNITIES, SHAPING YOUNG LIVES

*Assisting communities to provide
quality facilities for our citizens,
both young and old.*



Introduction

National interest has always been at the centre of operations of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC). From a fledgling company founded in 1975 to a local success story 30 years later, we have maintained a dedicated focus on developing our country's resources – its natural gas and its people.

Since 1992, NGC has spent over TT\$55 million on projects that traditionally targeted Youth Development, primarily through education and sport.

Our 30th Anniversary on August 22nd, 2005 allowed us to reflect on strides made since 1975, but it also marked a turning point in our Community Relations Programme.

The launch of our Socio-Economic Programme on September 29th, 2005 represented an expansion and strengthening of our community relations vision, as we adopted a more structured, comprehensive approach in helping communities, particularly those that are impacted directly by NGC's operations and development projects.

Increased interaction, particularly with residents of our pipeline communities, is allowing us to build mutually beneficial relationships through meaningful dialogue and important feedback. NGC is not only committed to people development but also to their safety, as well as our duty of care for the environment. We voluntarily adopted a "No Net Loss" policy in relation to forested areas that were cleared during project construction and are funding a comprehensive reforestation project.

In commemorating our 30-year milestone, we also committed TT\$12 million as a special gift to the nation, to facilitate the social and educational projects of various non-governmental organizations.

In this special report, we look at activities undertaken or initiated in 2005 that are benefiting communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago as NGC continues to provide growth opportunities that can shape lives for the long-term, and ultimately benefit the country's development as a whole.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMME

In 2003, NGC embarked on the largest infrastructure development in its history, to expand the natural gas transmission network and create new industrial sites. Since then, three major projects have impacted on communities spanning the southern region of Trinidad, from Mayaro/Guayaguayare in the east to La Brea and Point Fortin in the west. They are the Cross-Island Pipeline (CIP) – a 76.5-kilometre, 56-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline that extends from Guayaguayare to Point Fortin; Beachfield Upstream Development (BUD) – an offshore/onshore pipeline and slug catcher facility at Abyssinia; and the Union Industrial Estate, La Brea.

One outcome of this expansion is increased interaction with communities through which pipelines pass or construction is undertaken. The cooperation of residents is an important contributor to NGC's timely implementation of these nationally significant projects. Recognizing the impact of expansion on communities and following our "good neighbour" principle, we initiated dialogue, through community meetings and Communication Centres positioned at convenient locations, to communicate Natural Gas Safety Information and get residents' feedback on how NGC could partner with them in enhancing community life.

Using a structured Needs Assessment process, residents were able to identify needs specific to each community – 272 participants from 52 villages in five municipal districts responded through Needs Assessment Workshops conducted between 2004 and 2005.

Participants included key stakeholders such as village groups, sporting/recreational, youth and gender-based community organizations, educational and training organizations and business representatives.



Implementing training programmes to expand the skills-base of our communities' skills project.



In each consultation, participants were required to identify community needs through a survey and interactive focus group sessions. Input from Regional Corporations and other statutory agencies was also sought:

1. Human Capacity Building
2. Community Facilities Development
3. Communication and Relationships
4. Environment

NGC is partnering with five Regional Corporations, relevant Government Ministries and Statutory Agencies, Community Groups, and NGOs in implementing the selected improvement projects. Much of the work in 2005 was preparatory, as stakeholders' roles and responsibilities were defined, projects prioritized, schedules determined and budgets brought to the table in determining how best to optimize the TT\$18 million budget allocated to socio-economic development in communities identified for assistance in the first phase of the programme.

Helping NGOs who nurture children.



Human Capacity Building

The Human Capacity Building Programme aims to improve the socio-economic conditions of residents through education, training, employment and micro-enterprise. The key elements of this programme are:

- A partnership with SERVOL to engage adolescents in human development and skills training
- Training for residents, particularly those 25 years and under, in skills that will promote the socio-economic development of their communities
- A Micro-Enterprise Facilitation Programme that is directed at persons who have been trained. Still under development, it aims to provide business training and possibly a Loan Guarantee Fund to help these persons establish small businesses
- A Bursary Programme for tertiary and technical education, open to residents 17 to 25 years old. In 2004/05, 19 bursaries (11 tertiary and eight technical/vocational) were awarded to the value of TT\$82,000. In 2005/06, 42 bursaries were awarded to the value of TT\$172,000.

Helping our adolescents recognize and attain their potential.



Community Facilities Development

The Facilities Development Programme seeks to provide or enhance the social infrastructure in host communities, and includes 31 facilities, ranging from small to large, for Training/Education (3), Recreation (14), Community Development (8), Arts and Culture (5) and Social Services (1).

The small to medium-sized projects will service villages, many of which require upgrades or extensions to existing structures or facilities. Large-scale projects are designed to benefit a wider geographic area.

Cross-referencing with Government's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) avoids duplication. Additionally, NGC is working in collaboration with relevant government ministries to maintain a consistent approach in the construction of community centres, sports pavilions and other community facilities.

Many of the facilities are earmarked for completion in 2006, with the exception of the large-scale projects such as the Vessigny Dam Rehabilitation and Recreational Facility scheduled for 2007/08.

In 2005, two projects were completed:

1. Cap-de-Ville Community Centre, Point Fortin:

Completed in October 2005, improvements were made to the roof, toilets, yard and drainage, as well as electrical infrastructure and plumbing. Priority was given to this refurbishment to facilitate a pre-school housed there.

Enhancing the social infrastructure of our project communities.



2. SERVOL Regional Life Centre, La Brea:

Collaboration among three parties – La Brea Social Action Group, SERVOL and NGC – allowed an existing multipurpose complex to be refurbished for use as a SERVOL Regional Life Centre with classrooms, assembly hall, counselling room and offices. The first phase was carried out at a cost of TT\$145,000, allowing SERVOL to begin its Adolescent Development Programme and some skills training at the start of 2006. The project's second phase, which is scheduled for 2007, will involve the construction of an annex to provide workshops and classrooms as well as recreational facilities. Welding, Carpentry, Joinery and Computer Science are some of the skills to be taught here.

Carol Pilgrim-Bristol, NGC Director hands over the key to the refurbished SERVOL Regional Life Centre, La Brea to Fr. Gerry Pantin of SERVOL. Looking on are Hasely Crawford, T.C., Head, Community Relations at NGC, Sr. Ruth Montrichard, SERVOL and Ronald Prince, also of SERVOL.



Communication and Relationships

NGC continues to nurture relationships with stakeholders, recognizing the importance of goodwill and open communication to its business operations and the development of citizens. In 2005, we focused on increasing communication with project-impacted communities, initiating dialogue through four communication centres and other outreach activities to deliver safety information and get residents' feedback in a proactive approach to building relationships with them.

Four communication centres were established, including a mobile unit and fixed centres in La Brea, Guayaguayare and Point Fortin to reach residents in the vicinity of the CIP, BUD and Union Industrial Estate projects. The four centres combined interacted with a total of 13,873 people between January and December 2005, through direct visits, exhibitions, school tours, project site visits, and community and youth group meetings. Safety leaflets, PowerPoint presentations and a special community newsletter were used to communicate safety information, project updates, NGC's work in the community and feedback on residents' concerns and needs. As our network expands, NGC will build on existing approaches to reaching residents and other stakeholders in establishing mutually beneficial bonds.

Right on Track to success – training our youth in the fundamentals of Track and Field.



Environment

NGC is committed to reforestation of land areas equivalent to those cleared for pipeline construction and right-of-way extension. Through a Reforestation Programme, the company is partnering with project-impacted communities and the Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment in restoring this important natural resource and providing short-term micro-enterprise opportunities for residents in the process. In fulfilling the requirements of the Certificate of Environmental Clearance for its CIP and BUD projects, 105 hectares will be reforested in five 21-hectare blocks within 2.5 kilometres of the CIP and BUD pipeline corridors, in the Victoria/ Mayaro, Rochard Douglas and Morne L'Enfer (La Brea) Forest Reserve. In phase two, 210 hectares in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve, equivalent to the forested area cleared for development of the Union Industrial Estate, will be reforested in seven 30-hectare blocks.

NGC is funding the reforestation project which is being managed through the Tropical Re-Leaf Foundation (TRF). TRF is providing technical assistance and supervision to five Community Re-Leaf Blocks as NGC has adopted a community forestry or social forestry approach in implementing its programme. Agro-Forestry – a farming system that integrates crops with trees and shrubs – is the preferred approach which will see a combination of timber trees, fruit-bearing trees and short-term agricultural crops being cultivated over the programme's 10-year duration, with multiple social and economic benefits for people and the environment.

Not one hectare lost! NGC has embarked on a 10-year Reforestation Programme.



30th ANNIVERSARY GIFT TO THE NATION



A contribution package totalling TT\$12 million was a special feature of our 30-year celebrations, designed to make meaningful and sustained social impact. Contributions ranged from one-off to three and five-year commitments to various non-governmental organizations whose work is helping to improve lives.

The largest of the contributions was an allocation of TT\$9 million over a three-year period, beginning in 2006, towards the establishment of the Natural Gas Institute of the Americas by the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

The other beneficiaries were:

Education

- **SERVOL:** Funds were provided for the purchase of equipment for the SERVOL Regional Life Centre at Sangre Grande.

Housing

- **Habitat for Humanity:** This group provides houses for families who fall outside the scope of conventional housing providers. Its "sweat equity" principle engages future homeowners in a self-help approach in home construction. NGC has committed an annual contribution for the next five years to help in construction financing, with preference for families living in its site and pipeline communities.

Learning a skill... The hospitality field is one of the areas in which young people are trained.

Social Projects

- **Leonard Cheshire Foundation:** Financial assistance facilitated roof and other repairs in upgrading a building where the disabled have access to residential care.
- **Living Water Community:** Renovations to the hospice for individuals with HIV/AIDS, and a chiller for the Marion Centre for Youth are helping this group in carrying out its work with less privileged citizens.
- **Lady Hochoy Home, South:** Contribution to the establishment of an Early Intervention Centre is helping this home's work with children and youth with disabilities.
- **Goodwill Industries of the West Indies:** Funding covered the purchase of equipment for several training programmes including welding, small appliance repairs, food preservation and agriculture.

NGC is committed to helping the less privileged in our society.



This group provides vocational and remedial training and employment, in addition to rehabilitation of persons with physical and mental disabilities.

- **Sylphil Home in Love, Tobago:** Our contribution towards the construction of a new building will allow this home to house more youths from rural areas who are pursuing secondary education in the capital city of Scarborough, as well as other children in need.
- **Catholic Commission for Social Justice:** TT\$120,000 was contributed towards the purchase of land and construction of the Anthony Pantin Reintegration Centre for the rehabilitation of ex-prisoners. The centre's goal is to assist ex-prisoners in building productive lives by providing alternatives to crime through a structured education programme.
- **SWAHA Inc:** NGC's funding is assisting this group in carrying out its charitable work and will go towards the construction of a Halfway Home in Penal for children requiring support and care.
- **New Life Ministries:** This group is continuing its rehabilitation programmes for victims of substance abuse through donations from NGC and other contributors.

Bringing fun and joy into youngsters' lives through our facilities improvement programme.



Culture/Arts

- **Indian Caribbean Museum:** Established by the Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha in Waterloo (an NGC pipeline community), the museum aims to preserve the history and culture of East Indians in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean. NGC has contributed TT\$150,000 to the establishment of the museum.
- **The Lydian Singers – Special Performances:** NGC's relationship with, and support of the Lydian Singers is a long-standing one, dating back to 1992. In 2005, we co-celebrated their 25th and our 30th Anniversaries by funding their staging of the opera *Orpheus and Euridice* in Trinidad and their concert performance in Tobago which also featured the Signal Hill Alumni Choir and Music Amateurs.

A visit to the Indian Caribbean Museum is a fun, learning experience.

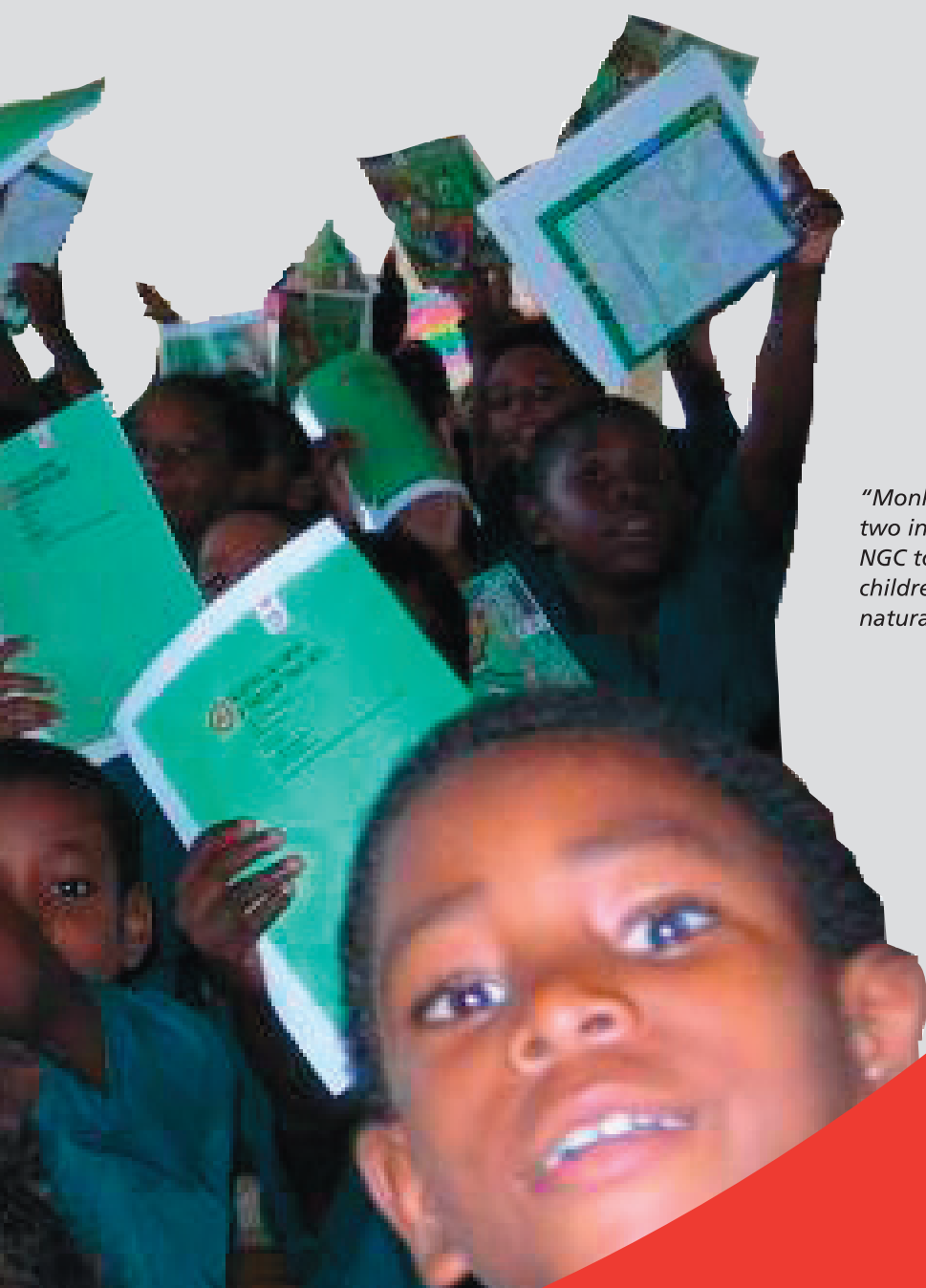


PURSuing PROGRAMMES THAT WORK

The evolution of our Philanthropic Programme over the past 30 years has put NGC among the top corporate citizens in Trinidad and Tobago today. In structuring our programme by focus areas and geographic spread, we are able to make meaningful contributions for the benefit of the wider national community. Many of our projects have stood the test of time and are ongoing features of our Community Relations Programme.



These include a proactive programme of contributions and sponsorships as well as responding to ad hoc requests for assistance that meet NGC's criteria for donations. Although it is impossible to meet all needs, we are proud of our commitment to evaluate all requests, 897 of which were received during 2005. Of them, we assisted 310.



"Monkey" and "Iguana" are two indigenous animals used by NGC to help teach primary school children about the importance of natural gas.

Contributions and Sponsorships

NGC in Social Services

Fourteen NGOs providing social, welfare and educational services received final year funding in fulfillment of three-year agreements. Five institutions providing for the differently abled, the Phillips Children's Home, and the Heroes Foundation also shared in the social services allocation.

A special donation was made towards construction of the Helena Charles Home for the Aged, La Brea.

NGC's social services donations help improve life for the differently abled.



NGC in Education

Assistance in this area ranged from bursaries for employees' children, pipeline/site community residents and other nationals, to sponsorship of the Tobago House of Assembly's Annual Primary Schools' Agricultural Science Competition, and contributions to the Chaguaramas Military Museum and several schools' projects that addressed critical needs identified by the schools themselves.

Agricultural Science Competition in Tobago addresses a critical need.



NGC in Sport

Co-sponsorship with the Trinidad Express Newspaper of the Schools' Basketball Competition continued in 2005. NGC also maintained its support of the Ministry of Education's Primary Schools' Track and Field Games by sponsoring the zonal competitions in La Brea and Moruga and the District Games in Caroni, as well as assisting the District Games in St. Patrick. We were also sponsors of the Southwestern District Netball Tournament for primary schools.

In 2005 – the United Nations' International Year of Sport and Physical Education – we reinforced our commitment to youth in sport through financial support for the CARIFTA Games for a third year. Our further contribution of TT\$300,000 assisted the Tobago

Schools Basketball competition – just one of the many sporting opportunities that help expand our youth to learn about determination and commitment for life.



House of Assembly in upgrading the Dwight Yorke Stadium in time for the games, making this venue the only IAAF-certified facility in Trinidad and Tobago. In our site community of Couva and environs, the Lisas Gardens Welfare Council received assistance with repairs and lighting of their basketball court.

NGC in Arts/Culture

We continued our annual support of various Carnival activities and 57 community-based unsponsored steelbands. We maintained our long-standing support of the Lydian Singers and Lydian Steel. A local television station, Gayelle, The Channel, received funding to continue its local programmes that feature our country's arts and culture.



Youth Development

Through specific initiatives, we continued to maintain our focus on youth development through sport, education and the arts.

NGC Right on Track

Our Right on Track programme seeks to develop the athletic skills of young people by hosting coaching caravans in communities across the country. In 2005, the programme was extended to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and St. Lucia at the request of these territories. Dominica is scheduled to follow in 2006.

Hasely Crawford T.C. continues to inspire the youth with his Right On Track Programme.

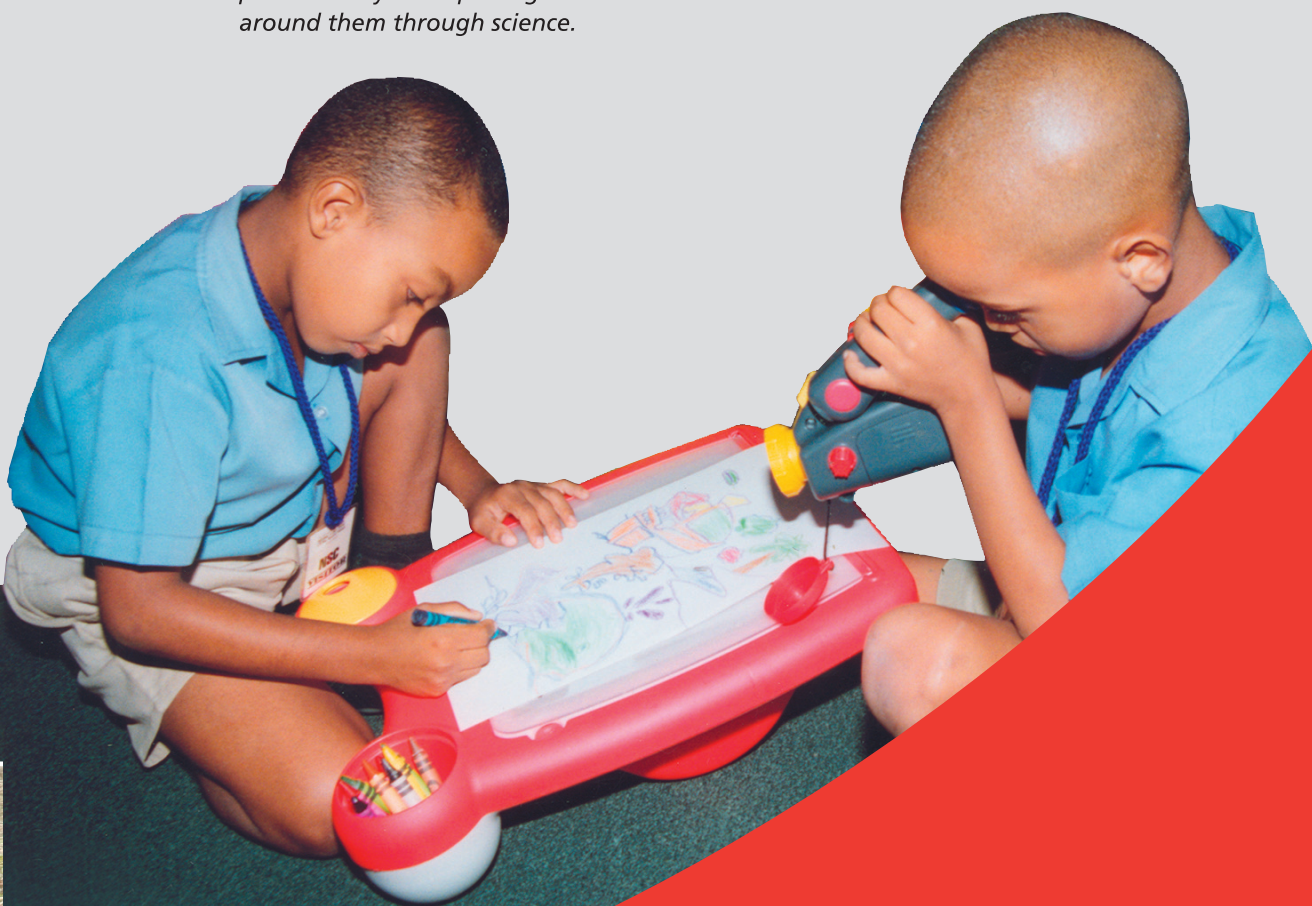


In Trinidad, the caravan was expanded to include basketball. A brilliant track and field initiative was conceptualized, designed and developed by employees, in particular, 1976 Olympic Gold Medallist and Head of our Community Relations Department, Hasely Crawford who is the driving force of the project. It continues to teach children the basics of track and field and has the potential to unearth new talent at an early stage.

NIHERST/NGC Science Centre

Our partnership with the National Institute for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST) has grown significantly with NGC investing more than TT\$3 million over the past nine years in developing and maintaining the National Science Centre. The centre allows children to easily understand science and technology by simplifying scientific processes and demonstrating their usage in everyday life. The long-term goal and the centre's much bigger role is in supporting Trinidad and Tobago's aspiration of developing and utilizing technology to drive national development.

These children can look forward to fun, practical ways of exploring the world around them through science.





The arts come alive each year at a festival brimming with young talent and potential.

Sanfest

NGC sponsored the annual National Junior Arts Festival (Sanfest) of the San Fernando Arts Council which has grown in scope over its sustained run. The festival encourages students of primary, secondary and vocational schools to express themselves creatively, through drama, speech, music, dance and the visual and literary arts.

Maypole Fiesta

In Tobago, sponsorship of the Schools' Maypole Fiesta of the Tobago House of Assembly is one way of preserving our indigenous heritage as we embrace our multifaceted culture.



**THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED**

*Orinoco Drive, Point Lisas Industrial Estate,
Couva, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,
West Indies*

P.O Box 1127, Port of Spain

Tel: 868-636-4662/4680

Fax: 868-679-2384

E-mail: info@ngc.co.tt

Or: helpdesk@ngc.co.tt

Website: www.ngc.co.tt