

Energy Chamber hails NGC's return to profitability

THE Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago yesterday congratulated the National Gas Company (NGC) for returning to profitability.

The Chamber made the statement as NGC reported a profit of \$1.6 billion for the year ended December 31, 2024, reversing a loss of \$1.3 billion in the previous year.

The 2023 loss stemmed from two major impairment charges: a \$1.5 billion goodwill write-down tied to its stake in Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd, and a \$328.9 million hit from its investment in Caribbean Gas Chemical Ltd.

Last year, the goodwill impairment narrowed to \$562.7 million, while the loss from Caribbean Gas Chemical Ltd fell sharply to \$1.9 million.

Recently appointed chairman of NGC Gerald Ramdeen said the turnaround in profitability was a 'vast and welcome improvement.'

Despite the improvement, Ramdeen indicated that the NGC was severely challenged in its cash management by the non-payment of T&TEC receivables, which stand at \$6.3 billion and is estimated to grow by \$1.2 billion per year if not urgently addressed.

The closure of the Niquan Plant also adversely impacted the receivables by a further \$145 million.

Looking ahead, Ramdeen noted that natural gas remains critical in meeting the local energy needs and growing global energy demand while supporting the transition to cleaner sources.

He has identified that the key strategic focus areas for the upcoming years include:

- optimising current value chain business operations
- collaborating with upstream producers to ensure the safe and timely completion of the Manatee project
- supporting the FID for the deepwater Calypso Development
- optimising the use of existing energy infrastructure on new gas supply
- diversifying revenue streams through high grade regional and international investments
- progressing sustainability initiatives, including wind and solar power generation.

He said in addition, NGC would do a long overdue subsea inspection of one of its most valuable assets, including any necessary remedial work to secure its pipeline infrastructure.

'The Group plays an extremely important role in the energy sector and serves as a model State agency in Trinidad and Tobago. The company has been focused on monetising the natural gas resources of the country and the Energy Chamber extends congratulations to the NGC on their 50th anniversary,' a Chamber release stated.