

Pan Trinbago alarmed as NGC cuts steelband sponsorships

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Pan Trinbago president Beverley Ramsey-Moore says she is “extremely worried” about the National Gas Company’s (NGC) decision to cut sponsorship of three steelbands and its partnership with Pan Trinbago, warning the move sends a troubling signal to other stateowned companies.

The comments come after NGC terminated sponsorship agreements with the La Brea Nightingales, Couva Joylanders, and Steel Explosion from Tobago, citing a re-evaluation of contracts.

In a letter to La Brea Nightingales dated September 3, acting president Edmund Solomon said: “Whilst we value the business relationship between NGC and La Brea Nightingales, NGC is presently re-evaluating its existing contracts and has determined that it is no longer viable for NGC to continue under the present agreement.”

The contract ended on September 11.

“Yes, I’m extremely worried,” Ramsey-Moore said, calling the decision “insensitive” and “passing strange.”

She added: “We just celebrated Steelpan Month. Pan is our national musical instrument.

It is definitely on a high, not only here at home, but internationally.

And when your state bodies send that kind of signal, what does it say to the other corporate bodies? “Pan is community. Now you’re wondering what’s going to happen with NLCB. You’re wondering what’s going to happen with Heritage and all those other companies.”

Ramsey-Moore said investment in steelpan also supports youth, women, and community development.

“When you invest in steelpan, you invest in youth development, in community development, in women’s development,” she said.

She confirmed Pan Trinbago’s funding from NGC had also been cut.

“It’s not only the bands, they have also cut the association with us as Pan Trinbago,” she said.

“I can’t give you the exact figure right now as to what we got for this year, but I was getting some signals. I don’t know what is happening. It’s passing strange.”

The Pan Trinbago president said she reached out to Culture and Community Development Minister Michelle Benjamin for support.

“I did reach out and I asked her to intervene, and she has given me a word that she’s going to intervene,” she said.

She also appealed for a meeting with NGC.

“We are prepared for dialogue.

We can sit down and we can work together. We look forward to discussions on it.

They should have given us an opportunity to have dialogue,” she said.

Couva Joylanders confirmed the termination on social media, saying: “This marks the end of a meaningful partnership that has helped fuel our growth, strengthen our programmes, and uplift our players and supporters. We are deeply grateful to NGC for their support over the years.”

CNC3 News has reached out to NGC and the Ministry of Culture and Community Development for comment. The ministry has not responded, while NGC has acknowledged receipt of the query but has not yet responded.