



1992-2017

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T+F: Mr. Pieter Lourens
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CC: Mr. Jakes Jacobs
Ath : Ms. Dorah Mngwevu
ADD: Ms. Mottlatsi Keikabile
Ms. Shireen Noble
Ms. Esther Malema
Ms. Ntathu Gwadiso
E.O. Mr. Jazz Mnyengeza
Mr. William Mokatsanyane

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mervyn KING
Mluleki GEORGE

PARTNERS

IAAF
CAA
SASCOC
SRSA
NLC
ASA Provinces
ASA Associates
SABC
Adidas
Tsogo Sun
SA Sports Trust

MISSION

To make a contribution towards Nation Building and Healing of our land, South Africa, and the Transformation of our Society, through the Development of Athletics, from Grassroots to the highest levels of Excellence

To	ASA Members
From	ASA Office
Date	17 June 2017
Subject	President's Report at 2017 ASA AGM
No pages	13

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

ASA CIRCULAR 61: PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT 2017 ASA AGM

Dear ASA Members

Please find attached the ASA President's Report as delivered at the 2017 ASA Annual General, held at the OR Tambo Garden Court Hotel in Kempton Park on 17 June.

This report must be read in conjunction with the Acceptance Speech of Mr Aleck Skhosana, after he was elected as ASA President for a 4-year term in October 2016.

The report under the heading "Towards New Innovations In Athletics" was the first report of the ASA Board, in the 4 year term leading up to the 2020 Olympic Games.

The above-mentioned report will serve as a directive in all programmes that will be designed and implemented by ASA, in consultation with ASA Members, Associates and partners, in the term of the ASA Board leading up to 2020.

Athletics greetings

Richard Stander
ASA CEO
Not signed due to electronic sending



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ASA AGM - 17 JUNE 2017 - GARDEN COURT OR TAMBO INTERNATIONAL HOTEL

THEME: TOWARDS NEW INNOVATIONS IN ATHLETICS

The Vice President, Board Members, ASA ACEO, Provincial Presidents, Commissions, Committees, General Managers and Secretaries, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning to you all!

It gives me great pleasure to stand in front of you and report once more to you members of the ASA Council, on progress made thus far and also about what we hope to achieve in the near future of this new 4 year Olympic Cycle.

PART 1

1. ADMINISTRATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The ASA office is vibrant and doing a lot of good work under the stewardship of the ASA Acting CEO. There is communication between provinces and ASA on a number of issues that affect athletics at large.

We have noted that some are still struggling to keep their offices afloat. It is important to keep on innovating and bringing new ideas and relevant people to the athletics family. This will enhance the development of the sport.

2. ASA LEGAL MATTERS

In 2014 when we were elected we discovered that ASA was on the brink of losing everything including the Athletics House due to the High Court default judgement. We were slapped with a huge legal fine of R12 million. For the past three years we have been paying this huge bill.

Today the ASA board has finally settled this legal matter that involved the athlete who was injured and subsequently claimed millions of rands.

However ASA still has other pending legal matters that also came from the previous administration which involved the technical officials who were injured during the competition. ASA are defending these matters in the High Court. We hope that we will be resolving and finalising these matters in the near future.

3. IAAF WORLD YOUTH AND SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AFRICAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

ASA is sending formidable teams of youth, junior and senior athletes to fly the flag of SA at the above championships. It is our hope that these athletes will bring honour and glory to our country.

A small team but full of highly ranked and rated athletes in the IAAF and CAA list were selected.

London is going to be a high profile event. Caster, Wayde, Simbine, Luvo, Sunette, and many others will be there to fly the national flag high. In Algiers, we are sending a powerful team with some being gold medal prospects. We are also sending the IAAF Youth Championships team to Nairobi. We hope to improve the rankings of the RSA.

4. FUNDING AND SPONSORSHIP

The funding and sponsorship is a matter that ASA is dealing with in a holistic manner. ASA has approached specialist Sponsorship and Marketing companies to act as agents who will look for the sponsorships for the different properties that we are contemplating to present in the next few seasons.

Our main target is Track and Field Championships, Road Running Championships and Cross Country Championships. The innovation we hope to bring will assist a great deal in the Marketing and Sponsorship of each and every event ASA will organise.

We have reached a position where our finances are beginning to look good since we took office and had to deal with a debt in the region of R27 000 000,00 which we have settled.

Our stringent planning that we put in 2014 has paid positive results. We have been on an extremely tight payment schedule that is still operating today under the extreme austerity financial conditions which forced us to cut down on the size of teams in totality, even though we still managed to present the best of the best to all IAAF and CAA competitions.

5. BROADCASTING OF ASA EVENTS

We are engaging in a discussion with the broadcasters on what we have seen in the world of athletics, which we believe is critical for the advancement of athletics in our country.

A variety of superior products that ASA is working with other partners, including CAA and IAAF, is intended for the further development of our athletics.

SABC alone cannot help us popularise sport. All the big 4 federations are using both SuperSport and SABC to reach out to the masses of our country at a very convenient time especially for the youth. All our events were broadcasted after 9:30 pm and others at 23:00 to midnight with no repeats and live streaming. We are intending to

take a different route that will enhance our brand and attract sponsorship for our programmes.

6. ASA BOARD

The ASA Board has put a lot of effort in ensuring that Athletics in general is uplifted through the performance of Athletes and Coaches in a number of disciplines. This has resulted in a positive impact which the nation and members are talking about everywhere.

7. PROVINCES FUNCTIONALITY

ASA has noted that most of the provinces are trying everything they can to lift the standard of athletics in the provinces despite the challenges that they encounter here and there.

The yard stick that we use is to check the following, to ascertain that a province is actually working or it is just there by name only.

- 7.1. Constitution alignment to ASA
- 7.2. Competitions and Championships in all disciplines
- 7.3. Board and Commission meetings
- 7.4. Committees
- 7.5. Relationship with Schools
- 7.6. Relationship with Universities
- 7.7. Relationship with government, especially the two spheres
- 7.8. Holding of AGM and Council Meetings
- 7.9. Minutes of Meetings
- 7.10. Control of Athletics in the province
- 7.11. Compliance to ASA Rules and Regulations
- 7.12. Audited Financial Statements submission to ASA.

8. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The role of Associate Members needs to be reviewed in order to fit and match ASA objectives. The purpose of Associates is the strengthening of athletics, and to create a constructive culture of development in the country.

This will lead to our youth and juniors competing with the best in the world of athletics. The associates, by design, must be the fertile ground of ASA development all over the country.

8.1. SASA

The simple role of SASA is to do what clubs cannot do at the schools and community level. Schools are everywhere and for that reason, all schools must be members of SASA. The Provinces of ASA must have a school representative on their Board.

The SASA chairperson of Track and Field and Cross Country must be part of the two ASA commissions. This will ensure that SASA and the ASA Province speak with one voice when it comes to all matters of athletics in the province. That way there will be no athletics that is controlled and decided by a provincial government and so on. All decisions of athletics will be taken in one room by the athletics provincial body.

The SASA provincial committee will select and hand over their team for ratification to the ASA Provincial Commission and Board before it is entered for the National Championships. The statistics and records will be kept in the provincial office by the office manager or secretary of the ASA Province in collaboration with SASA Secretary and General Secretary.

There will be one calendar that will be distributed and shared with all the provincial and national government departments' affected or responsible, to coordinate sport and recreation or extra-mural curriculum for schools in the country or province. The dates agreed and approved in the ASA General Council Meeting shall not be changed by anyone other than the ASA province in consultation with ASA.

8.2. ULTIMATUM BY THE MINISTER

The Minister has issued a soft but firm instruction or ultimatum that states clearly how to deal with the issue of schools Athletics. There is no other way other than to comply with this mandate and directive given to ASA.

The "how" part of it is going to be simple! ASA will work out a programme that is going to be national and that will demand every one including government, to follow what ASA is doing regarding its Associate Member, which is SASA.

8.3. USSA ATHLETICS

There has been a lot of talking regarding the manner in which USSA is structured and how their events are being run. We have reached a moment where we have to say to USSA, decide if you want to be with ASA or not.

It must be remembered that it is ASA that is an affiliate of IAAF in this country. It is ASA that is a sole custodian of Athletics in SA.

We believe that the meeting with USSA NEC is going to clear the confusion once and for all. USSA Athletics must decide what they want to do in the next 3 months.

8.4. SAPS, SANDF and DCS

The importance of having SANDF (South African National Defence Force), SAPS (South African Police Services) and DCS (Department of Correctional Services) in our organisation as an associate members, has not been exploited fully since the demise of apartheid.

Let me deal with this and share with this house how it is done in many parts of the world including the poorest and richest nations.

The SANDF, Police Force and DCS serve as powerful partners in assisting the national federation to have both men and women athletes in the establishment whilst they are professional athletes.

The Police Force, SANDF and DCS contribute largely in the provision of the following:

- 8.4.1. Facilities for training of Athletes and a Technical Officials
- 8.4.2. Recruitment of Top Athletes to join SAPS, SANDF and DCS.
- 8.4.3. Creation of job opportunities for outstanding performers.
- 8.4.4. Assisting in the organisation of events where there are Armed Forces
- 8.4.5. Accommodation for the athletes during major tournaments.
- 8.4.6. Training of athletes to be world beaters because they are put under strict regime of discipline by the Generals of the National Defence Force, Police Force and DCS.
- 8.4.7. The good examples are Kenya, Russia, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Egypt, Qatar and many other nations which are using the Armed Forces as their source of keeping the best men and women focussed whilst they work and practice to beat the rest of the world's athletes, because they are under strict discipline when preparing to conquer the world.
- 8.4.8. Hosting of Training Courses for the country and the continent using the existing facilities of the armed forces of SA.
- 8.4.9. Sending the Athletics Team to Participate in the African and World Armed Forces Games.

Just imagine what would happen if SANDF, SAPS and DCS were to be partners of ASA and contribute to the Flying of the Flag Project. It is important for the three associate members to come back to the ASA board and present what they're putting on the table that will be of mutual benefit to the country and sport of Athletics.

This is urgent and we can no longer wait for the next 3 months, without knowing what the role is of SANDF, SAPS and DCS in developing winners in the country.

PART 2

9. UPDATE ON CAA SR, CAA AND IAAF

ASA is the only Affiliate of the above three bodies and is expected to adhere to the respective constitutions and competitions' calendars of the three bodies.

As expected, the IAAF has come up with part one of its changes to the constitution in December 2016. The second phase of the IAAF Constitutional amendments is going to be done during the IAAF Congress in 2019.

It is expected that the lower bodies like CAA and CAA Southern Region and National Federations must also adjust and adapt their own constitutions without fail.

The ASA Constitution needs a lot of working, and we will have to adapt and adjust it to be in line with the IAAF, CAA as well as CAA SR.

This is going to be a process that will take some time. When it comes, let us all embrace it and quickly align with the bodies as mentioned above.

10. IAAF RELAYS INNOVATION

The IAAF has come up with another innovation in the Track and Field and Cross Country disciplines. This innovation must be implemented by all members of ASA with immediate effect.

The mixed gender relays is a must and compulsory feature that we must embrace and implemented in 2018. The Acting CEO will advise all members on how to structure this innovation.

11. UPDATE ON SRSA

SRSA (Sport and Recreation South Africa) has had a new Minister appointed at the end of March 2017. Hon. Thulas Nxesi has already interacted with ASA on the issue of EPG Report.

We also had the privilege to host the SRSA Director General Mr Alec Moemi at our Senior Track and Field Championships at Potchefstroom on Day Two. We believe the support from the SRSA is an important one and will grow from strength to strength.

ASA was once again punished for the EPG report which is not compliant with the EPG expectations and targets submitted by ASA to SRSA.

The new Minister for Sport and Recreation Mr T Nxesi spelt it out what he is expecting from ASA with regards to SASA. We are to adapt and adjust as a matter of priority to get out of the situation where we are the talk of the country as an untransformed federation.

12. ASA REPRESENTATION ON THE SASCOC BOARD

ASA was co-opted onto the SASCOC (SA Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee) Board in January 2017 following the elective General Assembly in November 2016. We have now been told that we were wrongly co-opted and that means the ASA Representative must be removed from the SASCOC Board.

PART 3

13. EPG REPORT AND SRSA

The EPG Report is critical for all the members to embrace and supply information as demanded by the SRSA and ASA.

In our ASA Council of June 2016 and QGM in October 2016, we emphasised the importance of this report and showed you the areas of weakness that needed your attention.

To our disappointment, the ASA office called on numerous occasions on provincial offices to submit this information. Clearly, to some provinces it was taken as a joke or as a non-issue.

The Minister has commended the work done by the ASA leadership in steering athletics to the highest level ever by winning medals at the Olympic Games, however the Minister further identified that SASA and Universities must play their role in submitting their reports.

ASA is in charge of making sure that EPG Report is fully completed. No mercy will be given to ASA if they fail again to meet the requirements as set in the EPG Report.

14. ASA BOARD RESOLUTION ON THE EPG

Any Member that fails to submit fully completed EPG Forms will be suspended with immediate effect and its licenses for the year will not be released by ASA.

15. COMPETITIONS STRUCTURE 2018 - 2020

The new IAAF and Olympic Circle has begun and we are expected to work tirelessly in order to achieve better results compared to the previous circle that ended in Rio 2016 Olympics.

The success of the current circle is dependent largely on the work of the coaches in the provinces where athletes and coaches are based.

The ASA Board will give guidance and set standards that will challenge our athletes and coaches so that we do not only send qualifiers but athletes who will be medal prospects at the African Companionships, IAAF World Championships 2017, 2018 and 2019 competitions as well as the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

16. ASA VISIT TO PROVINCES

ASA Board will be visiting the provinces to assess the development and transformation on the ground. This is a critical step that we must take to familiarise ourselves as the Board with what is truly taking place in each and every province that is a member affiliate of ASA.

As part of the visit we would also like to interact with the provincial government and municipalities so that we put the vision and mission of ASA to the stakeholders. We will also get to define our space and programmes as well as what ASA stands for and the authority that is derived from IAAF, CAA, and ASA down to the Province.

17. ASA PRESIDENT S COUNCIL

The ASA Board has also approved the Presidents Council as a forum that will deal with issues outside the formalities of the AGM and Council meetings. This is going to be the best innovation as Provincial Presidents will be able to interact with the ASA Board and raise all the challenges and successes that they are faced with on the ground. We will start immediately to schedule these meetings.

PART 4

18. ATHLETES PERFORMANCES AND RECORDS

ASA is getting stronger in terms of the Athletes Performance as we see more records being broken by all the three main age groups that represent ASA in the international arena.

There is good news for the athletes themselves and the coaches who work tirelessly trying to take the athletes to the top of the ladder. We thank the coaches and other supporting people and organisations that play a critical role in making us move forward as a nation. These are the true champions and they deserve a good round of applause from all of us.

19. TEAM MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

The ASA Board has identified team management training as an important area that needs focus in all the provinces. Quality team management and coaching goes hand-in hand in helping the athlete to reach their optimal performance.

We will be training the trainers who will in turn train the provincial people to be relevant and equal to the people who are managing athletes all over the world.

We urge the provinces to identify the relevant and committed people especially those with an athletics background so that they play a role in the education and training of others.

The CEO will come up with a Manual for this training. The experienced managers will contribute to it, to ensure that it is the best and will minimise all the challenges that provincial and district teams encounter when they travel with the teams. This has had an impact at the national level when we select managers to accompany teams to the international competition.

20. CALENDAR 2018- 2020

ASA has started a process of having a Calendar for the 4 year circle as promised last year. It is a work in progress and needs your support and commitment in order to be finalised.

This calendar should tell us when and where we are going to have our competitions in the next 4 years. This will help ASA and Provinces to bid for the hosting as well as finding sponsors well in advance for the championships and other events.

The ACEO must convene a Fixtures Committee meeting for all the members to ensure one calendar is produced and adhered to by all members. This is extremely urgent and there is no need for a delay.

21. ATHLETICS COACHING QUALIFICATION

All provincial members and associates must from now on concentrate on conducting coaching courses for new comers and advance others to the next level.

ASA will provide a Coaching Manual that will be for level 1 and 2 Coaching.

The ASA level 3 will be done at the ASA Coaches Symposium where coaches will be expected to present their thesis on a particular topic for assessment by the ASA Panel of Expert Coaches.

We are not going to follow a generic coaching strategy which is not going to produce sport specific coaches. ASA is out to develop excellence, not mob and masses that will not bring honour and glory to the country.

No resources for athletics should be spent in generalisation other than athletics programmes that will cause people to be irrelevant.

The ASA ACEO will embark on a process of RPL (recognition of prior learning) to those who have and currently producing athletes but not having papers issued by ASA.

We are moving towards an era that demands ASA to submit to the IAAF that every person who got athletes must be qualified and be a member in good standing.

We urge all members to submit their programmes for Coaching to the ASA when requested by the office. ASA will also be releasing the Elite Coaches Panel that has vast experience which is equivalent to the top coaches of the world.

This panel will assist the ASA Coaches Committee to compile coaching manuals that will be the best in the world.

They will pick the names that are working tirelessly in producing excellence in those events. We need this as a matter of priority and we can no longer delay on this.

The ASA Acting CEO will coordinate this with Mr Mehlo Hlabangane. These panel members will be able to meet with the presidium and the Commissions to share their views on how to structure some of the programmes.

Their paper will be distributed to the members of the coaching fraternity for implementation.

22. IAAF KIDS ATHLETICS

The IAAF Kids Athletics Program for the 6 year old and older is a must that we as members must adopt and implement. The IAAF provides equipment and training of coaches for this programme.

It can be done anywhere and everywhere. With South Africa as a leading and athletics-crazy country, it is a given that the programme will be one of the best in the world.

We are responsible for this programme and we need to work with SASA and Government in rolling it out to the masses of our youth all over the country.

This is the investment for the future and it will pay dividends when all of us have forgotten that we sowed the seed.

23. CORPORATE CLUBS REPORT

The ASA board received the first report from the Ad Hoc Committee that was set to look at this issue. We strongly believe that the findings are not yet adequate to compel us to get to implementation stage.

As President, the board has given me the mandate to interact with affected people as well as the provinces in order to look at some of the issues that are pertinent to the sport.

We will also call the individual corporate clubs to get their input going forward before we get to the finality of the matter.

ASA will report back at the next meeting on how far we have progressed. Therefore, the matter remains with the ASA President to consult further.

24. CONSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT

Provinces are required to align their constitutions without fail as from today onwards. As ASA visits Provinces, we shall be dealing with this matter with no mercy so that we focus on other issues that are paramount to all of us.

Access to Athletics Clubs is one burning matter that the Portfolio Committees on Sport at all levels keep on asking us to deal with as there are areas where clubs do not exist or are still segregated.

We urge all the provinces to make sure the rules of entry or joining the club are made easy with immediate effect. We are receiving letters from all the corners of the country, and athletes and new clubs are crying out that the provinces are refusing to accept them due to very minor and at times unconstitutional clauses.

25. STANDING COMMITTEES

The ASA Board has decided to keep the Standing Committee unchanged as we complete the normalisation of ASA. The new Standing Committees will be announced next year June 2018.

All the people serving in these committees must work tirelessly to ensure that they create a strong foundation for those who will come after them.

26. CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 - 2020

There is a need to look at the championships differently, in order to allow our athletes to double up in events and this is a serious matter that cannot be overlooked any longer.

ASA could not have Wayde running the 200m and 400m over two days championships. On the other hand we expected IAAF to change and adjust the timetable in order to accommodate Wayde, which lucky they did.

We need to have the senior and junior championships over three to four days as from next year. The argument will be that it is going to be expensive for the provinces.

We agree, but the issue is the athlete needs to have a day between the 100m and 200m and so on. This is a trend all over the world and we should follow this in order to have the best of the best performances from our top athletes at our own championships.

27. SUMMER SERIES.

The 2018 is going to be a bumper season as we are going to unveil the new Summer Series that will attract athletes of high calibre to come to take part in SA. This is going to be launched officially in October 2017.

28. COMRADES MARATHON, 100 KM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Our athletes in the ultra-distance produced some sterling performances. In November 2016 at the IAAF World 100km Championships in Spain, Bongumusa Mthembu won a silver medal in the individual category and lead Team SA to a gold medal in the team prize.

We wish to congratulate Bongumusa Mthembu for defending the flag of RSA by winning the 2017 Comrades Marathon which is multi-national event.

Likewise, we want to congratulate Mr Lungile Gongqa for winning the Two Oceans ultra-Marathon in 2017. It was pleasing to see that out of the first 10 men that finished the race, 8 of them were from SA.

29. THANK YOU

It is an honour to have our athletes and coaches working tirelessly every day, week, months and years in order to fly the flag of the RSA.

We will be failing as the ASA board if we do not thank the top coaches and top athletes for their excellent display at the national and international circuit this season.

We hope that the performances will be even better than the 2015 and 2016 IAAF World Championships and Olympic Games.

All the coaches and athletes are operating in the provinces and belonging to the clubs, without which, there will be no organised athletics.

We thank schools for the work being done despite all the interference and lack of resources to run the schools athletics.

Parents too, have played a huge role in ensuring that their sons and daughters go to practice every day. For their contribution we wish to say thank you to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aleck Skhosana' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aleck Skhosana
President
Athletics South Africa