

**CGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS  
7 NOVEMBER 2020**

**1. Welcome Remarks and Acknowledgement of delegates**

Ladies and Gentleman, Club chairpersons, Club Secretaries, representatives of clubs, fellow CGA Board Members, Commission members and Committee Members present today, Good Morning.

The year 2020 has not been a good year, in March 2020 the whole world was faced with the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic has affected the normal operations not only of Athletics but the whole sporting fraternity. The announcement of National State of Disaster by President Ramaphosa marked a different era in our life time.

**2. Call for Moment of Silence**

I would like to request that we all stand up to honour all our members we have lost over this period in the athletics family. We have also lost one of our technical official Levy Ramasega who has served the province over the years and he also served on the Technical Officials Committee.

Our sincere condolences to families and friends of all the athletes, administrators, coaches and officials that we have lost.

May their soul rest in peace.

**3. Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Encouragement of members**

Since the lockdown announcement at the end of March 2020, all athletics activities were cancelled or postponed. The cancellation of both provincial and national events had a negative effect on the operations and income generation of the province and all its members especially athletes that make a living from the sport.

It was important that CGA leads in encouraging athletes through social media platforms and increase the awareness of the pandemic. We have had a number of educational and motivational posts aimed at empowering athletes based on how they can stay fit and healthy during this pandemic period.

We had also looked at opportunities to host our essential programme virtually like the traditional annual Women's seminar. This year due to Covid-19 we held a virtual seminar on the 09 August 2020. We would once again like to thank all the participants at the seminar.

We have also had a virtual Throws competition which we held in partnership with Pierre Blignaut. The event was very successful with over 300 athletes and a number of international athletes taking part in the virtual competition.

One of the exciting projects was the compilation of videos from various CGA members which included Board members, Coaches and Athletes. The aim of the project was to encourage athletes to stay positive during the lockdown period.

As it was the Cross Country season between May 2020 and July 2020 we have videos clips of the 2019 CGA Cross Country Championships shared every Saturday. This also created positive vibes in keeping the spirit of athletics alive.

#### **4. Relief Applications and Financial Position of CGA**

Following the announcement by President Ramaphosa about the National State of Disaster due to Covid-19, it was clear that our financial revenue would be affected.

We had to review the monthly expenditure and most importantly apply for various relief fund set up by government and various funders. We have received or applied for the following relief funding:

##### **4.1 National Lottery and Gauteng Department of Sports Relief Fund**

We have applied for the Lottery relief fund in May 2020. The relief was mainly focused on providing a relief on staff salaries and in the long run savings jobs within organizations.

Our proposal was to the value of R2.5 million, however the approved relief funds received was R 100 000 (R 60 000 towards staff salaries and R 40 000 for the stipends and allowances of non-executive members).

A normal funding application was submitted at the beginning of October 2020 for R 5 Million funding. We are expecting an outcome around December 2020.

Gauteng Provincial Sports Department launched its own Covid-19 Relief Fund in July 2020 which we had applied for R 2.9 million relief. We have not had feedback on the application. We are hoping that in the coming weeks we will receive a response.

#### **4.2 Gauteng Grant-in Aid and Events Funding Proposal**

Gauteng Department of Sports and Recreation invited applications for the annual grant in aid and events funding. A proposal for both funding was submitted for R 1 million respectively. The proposals covered following critical areas of taking CGA to the next level:

- Transforming the economy to serve all people
- Education, skills revolution and health
- Safety and social cohesion
- Building a capable, ethical and development state

#### **4.3 UIF Relief Funds**

We have also taken advantage of the government UIF relief fund which we have applied for from April to August 2020. This is after the Presidium in April took a decision of 33% salary cut for the staff which we implemented as from June 2020 till September 2020.

This was one of the measures implemented by the Board to reduce the monthly expenditure during this difficult period.

#### **4.4 Club Developments Food Parcels Distribution**

Our development department approached various organizations and current partners of CGA to assist with food parcels. The food parcels were targeted at athletes and coaches in various development programmes that are in need within our province.

A total of 160 food parcels were raised out of the project from these CGA partners:

- Gauteng Department of Sport – 94 food parcels
- Spar South Rand & Spar Germiston – 60 food parcels
- Ekurhuleni Sports Councils – 6 food parcels (for Ekurhuleni based coaches)

The beneficiaries of the Food Parcel Project were athletes and coaches from 19 Development clubs.

Special thanks to Gauteng Department of Sport, Ekurhuleni Sports Department, Spar South Rand and Spar Germiston for their donations towards this Project.

## **5 Update on Legal Matters**

### **5.1 Diamond Athletics Club**

One of our member by the name of Diamond Athletics Club took us to court for the suspension of Mr. Diamond, a coach in the club. This is after we had suspended the club for its non-implementation of Mr. Diamond suspension.

The club lost the case at high Court with costs. Our disciplinary committee has scheduled a hearing with the club.

### **5.2 JM Busha**

The board resolved that the JM Busha case was no longer viable case to pursuit based on the expected income and the legal cost for the case. We are currently in discussion with the legal team of JM Busha to close the case in order to minimize the legal costs.

### **5.3 702 Walk the Talk**

At the beginning of the year we had met with City of Joburg MMC regarding her assistance with the 702 Walk the Talk matter. Unfortunately lockdown came when the discussions were at the advance stage. We heard that there are changes in both PRIMEDIA and Race Organisers office. We will be engaging with the new organisers once the lockdown regulations permits.

### **5.4 Legal Counsel Complaint**

In our submission to the Legal Counsel regarding a complaint about the representation of Mr. Sikhosana on the 702 Walk the Talk and JM Busha cases. The Legal Counsel practice cleared him of any wrongful conduct.

The board' strategy is to strengthen our disciplinary committee to deal with the internal disciplinary matters so that in the long run we avoid costly legal battles.

## **6 Returning to Competitions**

### **6.1 Returning to Athletics Competition**

At the beginning of October we received great news from ASA that permission for athletics to return to competition was granted by Minister of Sports Nathi Mthethwa.

We had submitted an application to host 4 events between November and December 2020. The events are two road races and two track and field events. The respective commissions will share the details of these events in their reports.

We therefore request that we collectively ensure that protocols is allowed by all our members in these event.

There are a number of unsanctioned events taking place in our province some of them comes in a forms of fun runs or virtual races. These events will not be tolerated and we edge members to forward any information of unapproved events to the office.

### **6.2 Virtual Race**

Since the Nationwide lockdown commenced on the 26 March 2020 due to COVID-19 virus outbreak and with the restrictions on hosting physical road races, members were allowed to host virtual races.

I must say that virtual races have its own challenges in terms of limitations to support the runner and liability issues. We have developed a virtual calendar that reflects all the virtual races approved by the province. Participation of runners in these virtual races will allow them to benefit from the athletes insurance should anything happen to them when participating in a virtual race.

There has been a lot of question if the virtual races are liable to pay race levies. The answer is yes this is a directive from ASA that virtual race organizers are liable to pay race levies to the hosting province.

As part of making our sport relevant during this time, we need to support approved virtual races.

## **7. 2020 and 2021 Permanent Licensing**

2020 has not been an easy year in a number of instances and one of them was a full use of 2020 permanent licenses due to cancellation of events. Even though the pandemic was not predictable it has affected us. At the time of the pandemic we had already distributed the licenses to members.

There are a number of questions which we have been receiving questions from members regarding licenses especially with the pandemic playing itself out. The questions includes the following:

- When can the 2021 licenses be delivered by ASA
- Will the fees remain the same for 2021- Considering that the 2020 calendar was affected by Covid-19

The board had deliberated on this matter in the last few meetings and the resolution was that clubs are granted a 20% discount on 2021 permanent licenses subject to terms and conditions which includes ordering and paying them before the end of January 2021. The GM will outline other terms and conditions to this effect.

We understand the effects of clubs and individual athletes as we try and recover from this pandemic and this discount is by no means creating less impact on our already constrained financials but to offer members some form of relief for 2021.

You must remember that we had paid ASA in full for the licenses which covered insurance of each and every license.

## **8. In Conclusion**

I would like to thank all clubs' administrators (chairperson and executive), for their dedication to the sport during these trying times. We need to ensure that the safety of our athletes continues to be number priority. Let us return to our sport of athletics in a responsible and safe way.

As President Ramaphosa says that it is now in our hands, let us ensure that we are safe and the people next close to us are also safe.

I thank you

James Moloi- CGA President