

**ADDRESS BY DR. DANIEL R. TAU, CHAIRPERSON OF
THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL, AT THE
BNSC AGM HELD ON SATURDAY 24th JULY 2010 AT
THE TATI RIVER LODGE IN FRANCISTOWN**

**Honourable Minister of Youth, Sport and Culture, Mr.
Shaw Kgathi and your team**

**President of the Botswana National Olympic
Committee, Mr. Negroes Kgosietsile and your team**

Director of Sports and Recreation

Distinguished delegates

Fellow Sports Administrators

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings

I would like to welcome all of you to this annual general meeting. I should, in particular, welcome our Minister and thank him for making time to be part of this meeting. We note your commitment and enthusiasm on matters of sport Mr Minister, and are convinced that His Excellency could not have chosen a better person for the Ministry you are Head of. The sporting fraternity is pleased to have you and these wonderful ladies and gentlemen are prepared to give you support and implement sport programmes and projects that are meaningful and geared towards improving quality of lives in Botswana.

This meeting, ladies and gentlemen, is held in accordance with Section 9 (1) of the Botswana National Sports Council Act, Cap 60:01. Our term of office for the 2009/10 sport year comes to an end today. We shall therefore present this meeting with our terminal reports in accordance with the provision of the Act that has instituted the BNSC. Our reports will by and large give highlights of our performance as a Council against our

2009-2012 strategy that was adopted at the 2009 Annual General Meeting held in Ghanzi.

As is the norm, upon coming into office, your Executive Committee drew out an Action Plan to guide its activity during the year under review. Updates on the progress we have been making were given at the November 2009 and March 2010 Ordinary General Meetings. The reports at this meeting are therefore meant to complete the Council's performance picture for the 2009/10 year.

The Secretariat has also been in contact with you on an ongoing basis regarding important developments within our domain. Attached to our second notice of this meeting, was a general update on our activities of the year. You also should have, with the third and final notice, received our terminal update on our 2009/2010 Action Plan. I am given to understand that you have also received a summary of our performance as a Council against our strategy high level targets. The latter update reflects the global performance of the general membership of the Council in respect of the

past year. With all the said reports circulated ahead of this meeting, it is only fair to assume that you are generally in the picture with respect to the progress we have made in the 2009/10 sport year. You should thus be able to evaluate the performance of your Executive Committee and determine if it is fit for purpose and worthy of an extended mandate. I will, to a large extent in my remarks seek to speak to the highlights of these updates.

Distinguished delegates, when we met in Ghanzi last year, you as affiliates undertook to align your strategies with the overarching Council's strategy, in order to facilitate a focused and more coherent implementation of the same. A year down the line, our records reflect that eight (8) of you have successfully achieved this milestone, with sixteen (16) affiliates still in the process of doing the needful. The remaining ten (10) affiliates are yet to start. I congratulate and thank those that have concluded this process and I am hopeful that the rest of us will follow suit. You will agree with us that by now we should be concentrating

our efforts on implementation. Much as it is important to plan properly, it is certainly not advisable to plan forever. I would like us to agree at this meeting to conclude the alignment process by the end of September 2010. Our current high level targets are demanding and have to be achieved within an environment characterised by perpetual change. It is only when our strategies are meticulously aligned that we could remain focused amid changing circumstances.

***Bagaetsho*, in the past year, we passed a framework against which Affiliates were to revise their constitutions. Our records reflect that only thirteen (13) affiliates have completed the re-alignment whilst twelve (12) are in the process of doing the same. Nine (9) affiliates are yet to start. I wish to suggest that we should adopt the end of September 2010 as the deadline for the review and revision if need be, of our respective constitutions to reflect the agreed scope, format and structure.**

Earlier this year, the Council office transmitted a questionnaire to affiliates to collect data for our database. The response rate has not been that encouraging as only 11 affiliates have done the needful. Another questionnaire was recently sent out to collect data on affiliates performance against the 2012 strategy and just 14 affiliates had by last week responded. The importance of the required data cannot be over-emphasised. We happen to be living on an era of lightened accountability, where evidence-based planning and reporting have taken the centre stage. We cannot convince authorities for increased resourcing without data-backed justification. Given this understanding, the next Executive Committee will have to follow codes that have not provided the required data so that our database can be completed and our performance measured scientifically and transparently.

The list of those who have met their obligations and those who have not is presented with the updates in your possession. Our Research and Projects Office will

be at hand to assist those who may be struggling to provide the required data.

***Bagaetsho*, I urge you to bear with us if we seem to be bombarding you with a series of questionnaires. This is the only way we can obtain the much needed baseline data to inform our future strategies and projects. Once the baseline data are available, our data collection will be less tedious and done primarily and occasionally for purposes of updating records. I once again appeal to you colleagues to assist this process by responding to questionnaires as sent to you from time to time.**

On Affiliates' Empowerment Policy and its antecedent instruments, I am happy to report that a workshop was successfully held for affiliates at the beginning of June 2010, where you contributed to the improvement of the proposed instruments in readiness for adoption at this meeting. Following the workshop, a draft Policy was transmitted to yourselves for further input. The only input received was from Rugby, which by and large was seeking clarity on some aspects of the policy. We

remain confident that this meeting will approve the policy for immediate implementation. Like any other policy, any short-comings detected during the implementation process will be constantly addressed to enhance its efficacy.

On stakeholder engagement, we continue to collaborate with our parent Ministry on a variety of programmes and projects. It should now be common course to all of us that, on occasions we, in the company of some of you, get summoned to the Ministry to discuss and advise on sport development initiatives. In March this year, we were all invited to a two-day Sports *Pitso* hosted by the Ministry for sports stakeholders. Although the record of proceedings of the *Pitso* are still to be released, the forum came up with recommendations which, if implemented, would have far reaching but positive effects on Botswana sport. We are also working with the Ministry on the Centres of Excellence project. The concept document relative to this has recently been shared with the affiliates to be immediately involved in the project. The affected codes have been asked to

identify athletes to be placed at the centres for the January 2011 intake. The affected affiliates are: Athletics, Boxing, Football, Karate, Netball, Softball and Volleyball. We once again urge these affiliates to submit lists of primary and junior secondary school leaving students who excel in sport for placement consideration at the Centres of Excellence by the end of July 2010. Further information on this is available from the Council's office. Much as some of you have expressed concern about the rushed nature of the project, we urge you to do everything in your power to support it. It should ultimately bear fruit. Let us also remind ourselves that the project has always been part of our strategy. The Ministry has only fast-tracked the project and widened its scope.

We are also in constant contact with the Ministry to accelerate the conclusion of the Sport Act. At the appropriate time, the general membership will be invited to make submissions towards this exercise.

In May 2010, the Minister formally presented the 2010/2011 grant allocation to the Council. The grant amounted to P64m, P6.2m of which was for the BNOC. In presenting the grant, the Minister called on the Council to fast-track the funding allocation policy. A draft to this effect is awaiting consideration by the Executive Committee en-route to the general membership. We would like the funding policy to guide the 2011 allocations to affiliates.

On a related matter, affiliates were invited to submit their 2011/12 budgets before the end of March 2010 for consolidation and onward transmission to the government. By the March 2010 OGM, not many submissions had been made to warrant a presentation of a consolidated budget to the meeting. We were however, happy that following reminders from the Secretariat, a total of 22 affiliates ultimately made their submissions, which enabled us to submit a much more representative budget to Government. We wish to commend all those who obliged and are hopeful that the twelve (12) that did not make submissions will heed

future calls to contribute to consolidation of Council's overall budget. The budget will be presented with the 2009 audited Financial Statements in accordance with the BNSC Act for your ratification. We continue to regret that we are always unable to present the budget for approval before it is transmitted to Government owing to late submissions of affiliates' budgets. Although the Act says the budget should be approved by the AGM, which only sits in July, the approval process has no value-add because the timing is not in consonance with Government's budgeting circle. The ideal approval time for our purposes is March of each year, hence we have always tried to call for your submissions before then.

Going back to stakeholders' engagement, we want to put it on record that we have developed a healthy working relationship with both the BNOC and DSR. There is a consistent meeting of minds and engagements between the secretariats of BNSC, BNOC and DSR around issues of sport development. It is our fervent hope that these engagements will lead

ultimately to the installation of a seamless sport delivery system required for betterment of our athletes' performance.

The BNOC and the BNSC will, all things being equal, meet in the next month at board level to progress matters of policy and strategy. In the meantime, the two parties continue to share platforms at each other's activities. I and the Executive Secretary have just come back from the Africa Youth Games at the invitation of the BNOC. The BNOC have also invited us to be part of the forthcoming Commonwealth games. Likewise, we have made the BNOC a permanent part of Games and some strategic initiatives that fall under our jurisdiction. On behalf of my Executive Committee and the Council general membership, I wish to extend our profound appreciation to the President of the BNOC and his Board for the emergent harmony and the efforts being made by our two bodies to work in unison.

Distinguished delegates, we are also on a campaign to formalise relations with our local authorities and to

promote the Botswana Games. We would like the local authorities to integrate sport development and promotion into their overall development plans. We remain convinced that a holistic approach to improvement of quality of life in Botswana is not realisable at District level if their plans are not inclusive of the need for direct investment in sport.

On a related matter, following a series of the 2nd Botswana Games evaluation meetings earlier this year, the Games Organising Committee (GOC) has finally presented its report to us. We will soon be signing it off to give way to an intensive campaign for the 3rd Games.

As per our strategy high level targets, we are supposed to introduce two more age groups to the 3rd Botswana games due in 2011. The feasibility of this development will be given greater thought following digestion of the 2nd Botswana games' report.

On the international front, the Council office is on an active dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

International Cooperation to progress discussions on the opportunities available for sport internationally. Focus is currently on Europe and the United States, particularly the State of North Carolina, where we are exploring sport development partnerships and scholarships tenable at the University of North Carolina.

The Council continues to benefit from the Botswana-Cuba Technical Cooperation. Following the departure of one Cuban physiotherapists in the past year, the Council has acquired a replacement physiotherapist from the same country who has since started work.

The Council also continues to coordinate the Australian Government sponsored Active Community Clubs (ACC) project in Masunga and Molepolole. Masunga hosts Football, Netball, Tennis, Volleyball and Junior Sports while Molepolole hosts Football, Hockey, Tennis and Junior Sports. The two centres recently hosted open days and will in November 2010 host festivals.

As reported in recent meetings, Government has started paying appearance fees for some of the affiliates. All national teams of eligible codes have been paid for the whole of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010. The timeous payment of the fees is dependent on the timeous submission of the requisite information by the affected codes. We are currently in dialogue with DSR regarding clearance of the remaining backlog. Codes could assist the process by expediting submissions of due claims. On a related matter, the Council office continues to engage Government for the development of a policy document for handling Appearance Fees and other athletes' allowances.

The BNSC Sports Awards ceremony took place on 10 April 2010 at the Gaborone International Convention Centre as planned. For the first time the event raised a surplus of P111 109. Later on the agenda, you will consider a motion from Karate on the subject of the Sports Awards. The motion was presented four weeks ahead of this meeting in accordance with the recently adopted Motions' Handling Procedures Document.

Affiliates would recall that the subject of time lines with respect to the submission of motions was contentious at our Gantsi AGM, with affiliates ruling in the end that the time lines be shortened. The effects of this shortened time were that, even if we as the Executive Committee were to engage Karate on the finer details of their motions, time would not be adequate to allow this process to meaningfully take its course before this meeting. As you consider this motion later in this meeting, be informed that our views have not been expressed, which views, we believe, should have addressed their concerns; at least to some extent. To this end, we will recommend to the incoming Executive Committee that they review the Motions' Handling Procedures Document and advise the general membership on the ideal way forward.

***Bagaetsho*, the Council Executive Committee has appointed, and will soon be launching a Games' Organising Committee (GOC) for all the Games under the auspices of the Council for 2010 to 2014. This Committee has already started work with respect to the**

forthcoming SCSA Zone VI Under 20 Games to be held in December this year. Affected affiliates have been met and are being assisted through preparations for the Games. As reported before, the Botswana team to the Games will be led by Ms. Tebogo Ntesang as *Chef de Mission*. She will be assisted by Mr. Joshua Gaotlhobogwe of BISA as General Team Manager. Mr. Gaotlhobogwe was the General Manager of the South East team to the Botswana Games in 2007 and 2009.

The 2011 All Africa Games remain scheduled for Maputo, Mozambique, from 3rd to 18th September 2011. Details of eligible codes and dates have been transmitted to Affiliates. The newly appointed GOC will soon be starting work on preparations for the Games, parallel to the SCSA Zone VI Under 20 Games and the 3rd Botswana Games.

As has always been communicated, the Council served in the 2010 Task Force put together by Government to propose ways and means in which Botswana could optimally benefit from the World Cup. The Council, on

behalf of government, successfully re-laid playing surfaces at the UB Stadium in June 2009 and the SSKB Stadium in May 2010.

On other infrastructural issues, I regret to advise that the National Stadium is still to be handed back to us following the upgrading process that has been going on for almost two years. We are particularly worried that the continued handover delay will affect our affiliates' relocation to the Stadium as the Maru-a-Pula offices have to be handed over to the landlord at the end of this month. An assurance has however, been given by the Ministries of Infrastructure as well as Youth, Sport and Culture to the effect that the stadium offices will be timely availed for the relocation process to be accordingly effected. We shall keep affected affiliates informed of developments in this regard.

The Lobatse and Francistown stadia also seem to be running behind schedule. We however trust that these will soon be available for us to ease your facilities'

needs as you intensify your respective sport development activities.

As reported at the last meeting, the Council's Master Development Plan was formally approved by the Town and Country Planning Board in November 2009. It was then submitted to the Department of Surveys and Mapping (DSM) for surveying of the plots. This process should be concluded by the end of July 2010, to enable lease agreements to be entered into with affiliates in the last quarter of this year.

On a related matter, following signature of a lease agreement with the Gaborone City Council over the South Ring Road courts, the Secretariat and the affected court sports held several meetings to agree on plans thereof. The plans are soon to be submitted to the appropriate authorities for a building permission. The necessary budgetary provisions are in place to effect developments, once all the logistics have been cleared. The rehabilitation of the courts should start in the last quarter of 2010.

On the Lobatse Courts, building permission has been secured in respect of the development of the second phase of the courts. The Secretariat is in the process of initiating a tender process for the construction of the second phase of the courts' infrastructure.

Building permission has also been secured in respect of the second phase of the Athletes' Village. The Secretariat is in the process of initiating a tender process to facilitate required developments.

On the *Re Ba Bona Ha* programme, Softball recently came into the loop, joining Athletics, Boxing, Football and Volleyball. Rugby is coming on board in September this year. The Secretariat is in the process of initiating a strategy for the *Re Ba Bona Ha* programme, aligned to the Council's overarching strategy, for implementation at the beginning of 2011. The envisaged strategy will be preceded by a review of the programme in its current form.

Distinguished delegates, further to your recommendations at past general meetings, a climate survey exercise on the Council staff has just been commenced. The exercise is expected to last till the first half of August 2010.

On a related matter, vacant positions of Sports Development Manager, Internal Auditor and Marketing and Communications Officer have been filled by Messrs Lobone Lloyd Kasale, Moses Moses and Modiri Ontitile respectively. Affiliates will soon be consulted on staff movements involving personnel at their service following placement of some of the staff members for further studies.

Affiliates will note that the Council has now opened offices in Francistown, Gaborone, Lobatse, Masunga, Maun and Serowe. As our term of office comes to an end, we strongly advocate for an intensified decentralisation of Council and Affiliates' services. We need to take development to the people. This exercise in our view, should be taken up as a project with

immediate effect, such that by the end of 2011 or there about, more of the activities at the Council's headquarters should have been transferred to the country-side. We should work such that in the next few years, Headquarters is largely left to deal with matters of strategy, policy, budgeting as well as monitoring and evaluation. Keeping Council's Headquarters vacillating between strategic and operational issues is to us counter-productive. We are of the strong view that sport development initiatives should be undertaken by well capacitated structures at regional level. Days of managing athletes remotely should be relegated to history, if we are to optimise talent search and move closer to excellence by our athletes.

We have proposed an agenda for the incoming Executive Committee, starting with a retreat on the weekend of 14th and 15th August 2010 to agree on the 2010/2011 Action Plan. The draft agenda has been developed based on the progress so far made against our strategy. Our proposed decentralisation concept is

part of the next Executive Committee's inaugural meeting' agenda.

I once again draw your attention to the updates that have been transmitted to you ahead of this meeting. I reiterate that all these were meant to provide information on our performance as a Council for the just ended year. I should thank you most sincerely for your contribution to our achievements during this period. I urge you to continue to work hard towards attainment of the rest of our strategy objectives. I must mention that we are pleased and encouraged by the improved performance of our various athletes in international sport. The results being posted are a clear indication that those who are in the steering wheels of our various affiliates activities are in control of operations and are focussed on the BNSC's Vision 2012. We commend you and your athletes for turning the fortunes of Botswana sport around. Let us all stay the course and continue to make our country proud.

At this juncture, I also wish to most sincerely thank my Executive Committee for their relentless efforts in pursuing our strategy objectives. Let me as well thank the Secretariat for their role in supporting us through our term of office. We have at times been hard on them but they stood firmly on their course to deliver the needful. We cannot thank them enough for the part they have played.

I wish you good luck with the rest of our programme for today and trust that you will not only leave a legacy in this beautiful city, but will also establish relations that will enhance sports development pursuits in this part of the country. As it is becoming a tradition, some of our activities this weekend will be of social responsibility nature. We have as a Council taken a deliberate step to leave indelible foot prints in places where AGM's are held. We invite you to join the Executive Committee in these activities. We have at this meeting set aside a desk where those of you who wish to contribute towards our social responsibility initiatives should either pledge or place their contributions. This desk is

going to be a permanent feature at our general meetings. BNSC like other body corporates, has a responsibility to assist in the drive towards developing a Just, Caring and Compassionate Botswana. Lets us join hands and demonstrate that we care and we can increase the difference we make in our society.

Thank you for your audience and God Bless!