

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL SPORTS COUNCIL MR. SOLLY REIKELETSENG, AT THE BNSC AGM HELD ON 11th JULY 2015 AT THE PAVILLION HALL, GABORONE, AT 09H00.

- **Your Worship the Mayor of the City of Gaborone Honourable Kagiso Thutlwe**
- **District Commissioner for Gaborone Ms Grace Seitshiro**
- **Kgosi Somolekae of Old Naledi**
- **Members of the BNSC General Assembly**
- **President of the Botswana National Olympic Committee Mr Negroes Kgosietsile.**
- **Members of the BNSC Board.**
- **Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana National Sports Council, Mr Thato Kgosimore, Executive Management of the BNSC and staff.**
- **Chief Executive Officer of the Botswana National Olympic Committee, Mr Tuelo Serufho.**
- **Leaders of Sport**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Ba ga etsho dumelang.

Salutations

We meet here today at this Annual General Meeting of the Botswana National Sports Council.

You will therefore notice slight changes in certain aspects of the meeting. This is because we are officially in a period of transition from the Botswana National Sports Council to the Botswana National Sport Commission.

This meeting is an occasion through which as leadership of sport, we come to give feedback to yourself on progress of our organisation.

We are also going to officially close the business of the Sports Council and pave way for the official opening of the chapter of the Sport Commission.

This marks the beginning of a major transformation in the sport administration system.

Statutory transformation

Distinguished leaders of sport as you will remember, in July 2014 Parliament passed into law a Bill that has been referred, as the Sport Commission Bill. Since it was passed by Parliament, the new legal instrument was to be formally signed into law by H.E The President of the Republic of Botswana Lt General Seretse Khama Ian Khama. This “Presidential ascend” was carried out in the first quarter of 2015. The new instrument, the Botswana National Sport Commission Act (BNSC Act No 30 of 2014) would then take effect at a date to be formally communicated by the Honourable Minister of Youth Sport and Culture, Mr Thapelo Olopeng.

I wish to state that the Act provides that the first meeting of Commission shall be called by the Minister. As we wrap up the business of the Botswana National Sports Council we are paving way for the Honourable Minister to officially

cause for the convening of the inaugural meeting of the Commission.

Leaders of sport you will agree with me that we are happy for the upcoming of this Commission as it is what we have been waiting for many years. It has a lot in store for us with some of the following changes:

- **the expansion of the functions of this body corporate responsible for matters of sport in Botswana,**
- **change in the financial year,**
- **the composition of the Board**
- **as well as legal recognition of organs of Council such as Women and Sport, People with Disabilities**
- **professional sport**
- **Recreational sport**
- **As well as Antidoping in sport**

We have therefore travelled a long road of sport administration through enjoyable moments and otherwise

during the many years of delivery of sport in our country. It is a road that only heroes and heroines of your calibre can remember.

It is therefore fitting that we pay tribute to the foundational years that set us in motion towards where we are today. In particular the year 1965 when the Botswana National Sports Council was formally giving legal status through an Act of Parliament. This Act has gone through several years of various review stages. In each review period proper consideration was made on the sporting landscape prevailing at the time. In the same spirit the legal instrument was crafted to give more leverage for growth to the BNSC. These will be remembered as milestone years of 1975, 1981, and now 2014. The latter has given birth to what is now referred to as Botswana National Sport Commission.

This year is marking the 50th Anniversary of the Botswana National Sports Council. It is only fitting that we factor in this milestone in our activities this year. Esteemed leaders of sport allow me to request for approval of an initiative to celebrate this 50th Anniversary before end of this year. If you approve of the proposal the Board will spearhead the setting up of structures to prepare for the celebration.

Strategy

This year should be remembered as a year of positive change. We have to use the new dispensation for the good. It has indeed given the BNSC impetus to plan for future success. We note the development of the sixteen year strategy Vision 2012 which took effect in 1996 through to year 2012. We now have another sixteen year strategy vision 2028 that took effect from 2013 and it is going to the horizon year 2028. Of note is that the rationale behind vision 2012 was to reorganise the administration of sport in

our country towards a more common direction. Secondly it was for advocacy for recognition of sport as an important factor in our national agenda hence the need for provision of better resources for its development. With the continued help of government, participation of the business community and good will of the citizens of this country we recorded milestone achievements in sport as we know it today. These are the ideals for we set Vision 2028 to pick to another level.

World Class Performance

We therefore continue to record medal victory and record breaking performance in the various international events we compete in. In recognising the work of year 2014/2015 only, we can proudly talk about the following names as they are now a force to reckon with;

- **Athletics; Nijel Amos, Karabo Sibanda, Baboloki Thebe, Isaac Makwala to name but a few. It is worth noting that Isaac Makwala broke yet again the Africa continental record on 400m male just a few days ago from 44.01 to 43.72 seconds. Nijel Amos has cemented his position for the third time against the Kenyan David Rudisha in 800m male.**

The other jewels of our sporting pride are;

- **Football; Ofentse Nato our export to foreign major leagues of Spain and India.**
- **Karate; the enterprising young Thabang Setshego.**
- **Boxing : the uncompromising Pearl Morake who has broken gender barriers in local boxing.**

This is just to name a few as the list of our top achievers is now endless.

In all major events; the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Youth Olympic Games, IAAF Diamond League, Various International Football Leagues, Various World Championships of different sport codes, regional and continental Championships we therefore leave a mark.

Distinguished leaders of sport I wish to recognise that this performance is not accidental, it is built on a foundation left by men and women who worked tirelessly for many years before some among us could even afford to comprehend anything around us.

These are the likes of Mr Robert Chideka, and Joseph Ramotshabi who were among the first to represent our nation at the Olympic Games in Moscow when we made a maiden appearance, the legendary France Mabiletsa of Boxing, the late Mr Terence Mophuting who was among the early football exports to foreign leagues.

WELCOME TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF AFFILIATES

Esteemed leaders of sport we have come this far because of the efforts of many who started at these humble beginnings of sport administration to high status leaders of our country and world players in leadership; These are the likes of the late Mr Peter Mmusi, Lt General Mompoti Merafhe, who became statesmen of distinction, Mrs Julia Majaha-Jartby and Mrs Dorcus Makgato among others.

Director of Ceremonies, coming closer to home, allow me therefore to recognise and welcome the following Presidents and Secretary Generals, who have since joined the General Assembly of the BNSC since March 2015;

- **Mr Tirelo Mukokomane and Ms Gloria Gaosikelwe:
Softball**
- **Dr Keba Hulela (Secretary General of Netball), joining the President Mrs Tebogo Lebotse -Sebego who has been in office.**
- **Mr David Mathe and Mr Montshwari Motlogelwa:
Karate**

- **Ms Ruth Van Der Merwe and Ms Sibongile Ruele:
Swimming**
- **Mr Busani Segweni and Mr Thapelo Jacob: BOPSSA**
- **Mr Tiroyaone Mojatale and Mr Abednico Tshambane :
BODANSA**
- **Mr Kagiso Kitso Kemoeng who has just joined the
BFA as Chief Executive Officer. I have confidence
that we will benefit from your experience.**

Distinguished leaders of sport, I paid tribute to the great leaders of sport who came before you. That is to make an assertion that your leadership is not different, although it is coming at a different time. The needs of sport never change that much, if anything they only increase in scale. We should therefore continue to shape our leadership for the better in order to serve sport better, in that way our good leadership profiles will remain credible and fitting the sporting landscape of now and many years to come.

I therefore wish to pass my sincere gratitude to your immediate predecessors for their contribution to sport during their time in office and continuing to support you from outside. Allow me to pay homage to all retired

and departed sports leaders whose leadership has inspired and shaped leadership of our time.

AUSC REGION 5 UNDER 20 GAMES.

Director of Ceremonies, as envisaged from the last meeting in March, the AUSC Region 5 delegates were to convene in Gaborone on 9 May 2015 for the regional Executive Committee meeting. This meeting held twice yearly on rotational basis among member states, did take place here in Gaborone. As you would know the AUSC Region 5 exists for the purpose of ensuring that planned programmes and activities were implemented in the region in order to attain a common standard of performance.

Among great achievements we are making is regional integration. We do that through active participation in sport leadership and regional activities.

During the hosting of the Regional Executive Meeting in May other organs of the regional sport organisation

were held; such as the SEAS, Women and Sport and Paralympics.

As indication of our good performance in the region we have proudly hosted most of the sisters member states of the region over various benchmarking excursions. They have something to learn from us as we also continue to learn from them.

As a major player in the region we have been motivated to gear up for the upcoming 11th Africa Games billed for Congo Brazaville. We hope all member countries of the AUSC Region 5 countries will pull all stops to attain the region's desired targets in line with the regions Podium Performance Strategy.

Ladies and gentlemen it is with a sense of honour to report that Honourable Minister Shaw Kgathi and Mr Falcon Sedimo are in line to be conferred with the AUSC Ten Year Service Award, which is given to individuals who continuously provide service to the

region by serving on the Council of Ministers, Executive Committee, Secretariat ad Commissions.

BOTSWANA GAMES 2015 IN FRANCISTOWN: 05 – 13 DECEMBER.

The 4th edition of the Botswana Games will be held in the City of Francistown from 05 to 13 December 2015. This will involve 13 sport codes; Football, Karate, Softball, Volleyball, Athletics, Athletics for visually impaired, Netball, Badminton, Tennis, Table Tennis, Swimming, Chess, Boxing and Basketball.

So far all the 16 districts have confirmed their participation at these games. They have since all submitted names of their CDMs and GTMs, as well as participated at the first CDM meeting held in May 2015.

The Games have since been launched two weeks ago, together with all related games identity such as the Mascot, (called “Zebi”), the theme song, as well as the new Logo.

I therefore urge you to monitor the performance of your Games Conveners, who are coming from your sport codes to ensure that they mobilise districts for teams selection and preparation.

I have no doubt that the City of Francistown as Host City are fully committed to the envisaged success of the Games and that they are working around the clock to ensure that success is achieved.

AFRICA GAMES IN CONGO BRAZAVILLE

These Games will be held from the 02nd to 19th September 2015 in the city of Brazaville. A total of 13 codes will form Team Botswana. These have also been engaged with submission of their training plans and team management. In the process of preparation training is going on both locally and internationally for various sport codes.

The official Send Off Ceremony will be the 31 August 2015, while the Welcome Ceremony is scheduled for 20 September 2015 upon arrival from Brazaville. The following

codes are billed for the African showpiece; Athletics, PASSOBO, Badminton, Boxing, Table Tennis, Swimming, Tennis, Taekwondo, Cycling, Judo, Karate, Volleyball and Weightlifting.

HOSTING

In pursuance of the ideals of the Vision 2028 of Hosting High Profile Events the Executive Committee has since sanctioned the hosting of the World Conference of the International Softball Federation in 2017.

This adds to the world level events envisaged such as;

- the World DanceSport Championship billed for 2016.**
- the World Netball Under 21 Games 2017 .**
- and the World Conference of the International Working Group on Women and Sport Coming in 2018.**

These are gratifying developments for our sport and our country as a whole as they will elevate the profile of our country in sports.

Director of ceremonies, on another note I have to be firm to all affiliates of Council to ensure that all governance compliance requirements are met at all times. I have to state albeit unpleasant to many that come Monday all those affiliates who have not complied with the requirements of the Registrar of Societies will receive letters of suspension until they make good. This will be the first step of the process towards delisting of those codes at the earliest possible time. It is a matter that has emanated from all the previous General Meetings at which this matter was addressed.

INTERNATIONAL WORKING GROUP (IWG)

The 2015 IWG Annual General Meeting was hosted by the NCAA in San Diego in April 2015 where we had our representation in the local leadership of the IWG. At this very meeting a date of 17-20th May 2018, was set for the 2018 IWG 7th World Conference. We commend Mrs Ruth Maphorisa for continuing to lead this organization as co-Chairperson for the period Botswana is hosting (2014 – 2018). She is Co-Chairing with Ms Carole Oglesby of USA.

I hope the IWG Secretariat continues to engage you as individual organisations to sign the Brighton Plus Helsinki Declaration.

Special Olympic

The USA will be a destination for us this year. On another note let me take this opportunity to wish a safe travel and good performance to the Special Olympics Team. They are leaving for Los Angeles, USA from the 20 July to 04 August for the World Special Olympics Games. They never disappoint, we therefore have reason to expect medals.

HOSTING AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Following the adoption of the policy in which you will be setting aside 10% of annual grant for hosting high profile national events, we have initiated the move to check progress on implementation of this policy among your organisations.

This policy should be implemented effective this year.

35TH BNSC AWARDS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are proud to have hosted the 35th edition of our BNSC Annual Sports Awards on the 23rd of May 2015. This was to recognize athletes, affiliates and media for their outstanding performance and contribution to the development of Sports in the country for the year 2014. For the first time a new category was introduced which encouraged the public to vote for “The People’s Choice” Award. Once again the awards were broadcasted *live* on Botswana Television and on Radio Botswana Channel 2 (RB2). The big winners on the night were Nigel Amos who scooped the Sportsman and Sportsperson of the Year Awards, whilst Pearl Morake walked away with the Sportswoman of the Year Award.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Distinguished members as you appointed the Elections Committee in March 2015 to oversee all matters of the elections in the current term of the Executive Committee of the Council, the Committee carried out its work diligently.

This time it was for the process of elections of the two representatives of the sport associations for the Board of the Commission. The process is near complete. You will be guided by the Director of Elections later during the process of the meeting. The two candidates that immerge out of the process should be forwarded to the Minister of Youth Sport and Culture for final due process.

CONCLUSION

Leaders of Sport in drawing my deliberations to a close, I want to thank all of you for your audience. I want emphasise that the wheel of change in sport is on course with a new dispensation of the Sport Commission. We

therefore have to brace ourselves to be equal to the new demands of our industry.

The introduction of the Sport Commission is envisaged to yield more to sport in addition to the achievements made so far. In the continued effort to realise the mandate of sport we need to look straight forward for more positive return;

We should say no to all the efforts that inhibit progress.

No character assassinations

No to underhand dealings to frustrate the efforts of fellow sport leaders.

We must say yes to growth and progress.

I am making that call because growth is in our hands. We have men and women who have the capacity to make a lot of positive impact.

I therefore wish to end by paying tribute to Secretariat for continuing in their quest to provide full services to us as leadership. It is only normal that we also demonstrate that sense of appreciation and thank them.

With those remarks Director of Ceremonies I thank you.

PULA!