

Dear Honorary Guests, Clubs, Coaches, Members and Parents, all protocol observed. It is with great pleasure that I would like to welcome everyone to the “*Namibia Swimming Federation’s AGM*”. A special welcome to Namibian Sport Commission and Namibian National Olympic Committee.

As we all know, 2020, has been a challenging year for everyone, with the Covid-19 pandemic reaching all corner of the world, it has not only affected sports but most aspects of our lives and this continues daily as the world recovers.

Like many other sporting bodies across the world, Namibia Swimming Federation has been profoundly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our athletes and affiliated swimming clubs were out of action for quite some time as the country battled various stages of national lockdown. Despite these adversities, we have managed to progress with, and complete most projects scheduled for the 2019-2020 season. Some achievements and highlights of the season are listed below:

## **1. GOVERNANCE**

### **1.1 NASU Strategic Plan 2019-2023**

In October 2019, NASU Executive Committee adopted the Strategic Plan spanning four years (2019-2023). This, comprehensive yet practical, plan includes a broad spectrum of objectives such as strengthening the capacity of NASU, implementing development programs, improving athletes' performance and participation, strengthening relationship with stakeholders and sponsors and building the NASU brand.

NASU Strategic Plan 2019-2023 was highly commended by the CANA and FINA and the implementation of outcomes is well underway.

### **1.2 NASU Constitution**

In July 2019 the Namibia Sports Commission (NSC) instructed all national sports federations under its jurisdiction to amend their constitutions in adherence to the New Constitution Framework directive.

On the 3 of November 2020, proposed changes to the NASU Constitution ultimately met with the NSC approval and the federation is urged to adopt these changes at tonight’s meeting in order to conclude the NSC driven national Sports Governance project.

### 1.3 NASU Policies

A set of NASU Policies was approved by the Executive recently and as such have now been implemented. The much-needed policies incorporate NASU's core values and will increase our service delivery.

They include:

- i. Administrative Procedures Policy
- ii. Code of Conduct Policy (for Executive Committee, Officials, Coaches and Athletes)
- iii. Judicial Procedures Policy
- iv. Disciplinary Procedures Policy
- v. Child protection and Safeguarding Policy
- vi. National Squad and National Team Selection Policy
- vii. Team Management Policy
- viii. Sponsorship and Grants Policy

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

### 2.1 Learn To Swim

In February 2020, NASU representative, Herta Becker attended the CANA Learn to-Swim (LTS) Program in Pretoria, South Africa. She brought back many exciting ideas and plans for development and the implementation of water safety initiatives.

NASU Executive Committee resolved to constitute a special Development Committee to be led by Mrs. Becker. This committee will draw up a plan to promote water safety in underprivileged communities and introduce the LTS schemes in rural parts of Namibia.

## **3. IMPROVING ATHLETES' PERFORMANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

### 3.1 National Squads and National Teams

In December 2019, NASU Selection Committee formulated criteria for a National Squad and National Team selection based on achieved FINA points. Three National Squads were devised, these comprise Development, Youth and Senior Teams.

In the Senior Squad, Namibia's two top athletes, Alexander Skinner (Swimming) and Phillip Seidler (Open Water Swimming) were identified as the Olympic hopefuls. These two athletes were scheduled to attend international qualifying meets in May and April to secure their

participation in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meets were cancelled. Both athletes are preparing for future qualifying events and the postponed Olympic Games.

### 3.2 Training camps

Highly specialized training camps were designed for the Youth and Development Squads. These camps were scheduled for April and September 2020 respectively. The planned camps were delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the Development Squad camp took place in October and the Youth Squad camp will commence in December 2020. We wish to thank the NNOC for their help with the Development Camp.

## 4. **NASU BRANDING**

### 4.1 National Apparel

In February 2020, the NSC approved National Swim Team apparel proposed by NASU, for which we are extremely thankful as the apparel caters for water sports. Namibian swimmers sported the custom-made team wear for the very first time whilst representing the country at the 2020 CANA Zone IV Championships held in Botswana.

### 4.2 Website development

In July 2020, the brand new, smart and user-friendly website was developed to promote NASU's activities. It includes Athletes' Profiles, season calendar, information on upcoming events and records, and lists our partners and sponsors. The site will go live once officially announced at the NASU 2020 AGM.

### 4.3 Social media presence

NASU maintains a strong social media presence through its Facebook and Instagram accounts. The content of both platforms is constantly updated with relevant information i.e. gala notifications and results, achievements, photos etc.

## 5. **AQUATIC ACTIVITIES**

### 5.1 Long Course season

The 2019-2020 Long Course season was unaffected by the Covid-19 pandemic. All four Bank Windhoek LC Galas took place as scheduled, culminating in the Namibia National LC Championships in February 2020. The last meet of the season, Aquapentathlon, took place shortly before the national lockdown.

The 2020-2021 Long Course season has already begun with the Bank Windhoek LC Gala 1 celebrated by athletes and coaches alike. Exceptionally good results were noted, despite the cold water and restricted training prior to the event.

## 5.2 Short Course season

Similarly, the 2019 Short Course season progressed as planned, however, all the 2020 Short Course galas had to be cancelled.

Namibia was the first SADC country to resume swimming activities under the Covid-19 restrictions. NASU drafted specific guidelines for clubs based on international standards and recommendations and assured that NSC permission was obtained before safely reopening swimming facilities as early as 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

## 5.3 International representation

In July 2019, Alexander Skinner, Ronan Wantenaar and Phillip Seidler represented Namibia in the 18<sup>th</sup> FINA World Championships held in Gwangju, whilst in August; a team of four athletes, Tiana Esslinger, Cornè Le Roux, Heleni Stergiadis and Ronan Wantenaar competed in the 7<sup>th</sup> FINA World Junior Swimming Championships in Budapest.

Two seniors, Alexander Skinner and Kiah Borg took part in the 12<sup>th</sup> African Games in Morocco (August 2019). Namibian National Team at the 13<sup>th</sup> CANA Junior Africa Championships, held in September in Tunisia, consisted of six swimmers - Mikah Burger, Jose Canjulo, Hannah Murphy, Trisha Mutumbulua, Mackenzie Spath and Maya Stange.

The largest ever Namibian National Team of 23 athletes represented the country in 2020 CANA Zone IV Championships in Gaborone, Botswana in February 2020. The team posted fantastic results, bringing home a 88 medals (28 gold, 31 silver, 29 bronze) and national as well as CANA records. With the men coming first and the ladies second, Namibia placed second in the Combined Team Scores table, ahead of South Africa and Botswana. In addition, three CANA trophies were won - 12 & under Victor and Victrix Ludorum (by Oliver Durant and Ariana Naukosho, respectively) and 17 & over Victrix Ludorum (by Heleni Stergiadis).

An overwhelmingly large number of athletes qualified for the 2020 South Africa's Age Group Level galas and the National Aquatic Championships (Junior and Open). A National Team was

selected to represent Namibia at the 2020 CANA African Senior Championships scheduled to take place in April, in Durban. As already mentioned, Namibia's top swimmers were due to compete internationally in various Olympic qualifying events (Swimming and Open Water Swimming). All the above-mentioned meets were however cancelled.

#### 5.4 Development galas

The 50<sup>th</sup> Pupkewitz Interschool Gala was hosted by NASU in October 2019 and attracted in excess of 700 competitors, the highest number of participants on record.

The 2020 Pupkewitz gala has been postponed until the restrictions on gathering limits have been lifted.

In conclusion, the 2019-2020 aquatic season was both challenging and exciting. The Covid-19 response measures adopted globally, certainly frustrated NASU's efforts over the long seven months. These measures had, and continue to have, a very serious impact on the NASU affiliated clubs who, like many other small businesses, feel the economic pinch the most. Coaches and athletes alike, share the disappointment of not being able to train and compete at the maximum level of their capacity. At the same time, the swimming community is united in working together to overcome the obstacles and looking forward to a brighter future.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSC and NNOC for their continuous support. Our Federation has made it a point to attend all meetings arranged by them to ensure we are continuously striving to reach their goals.

Our swimming federation continues to grow, and I wish to thank each member for their dedication to the sport. It takes a lot of planning and effort to ensure that our Federation is run successful and I would like to thank each Exco Team member for their hard work throughout this trying year. I appreciate your continuous unwavering support. Without your dedication we would not have been able to reach our goals while continuously growing the sport and enhancing the life of our swimmers.

I wish you all a great 2020-2021 season.

Yours in swimming,



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Aileen Botha  
NASU PRESIDENT