



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"RALLYING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC"

Coming up on 60 Years of our existence, the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee never anticipated a year like 2020.

Confronted with the onset of COVID in early March 2020, our events and preparations took a backseat as PNG and the rest of the world fought to keep their respective nations safe from the coronavirus.

The reality was that COVID was driving our priorities as we had an event filled backend of 2020 when restrictions eased.

We are all in this together. Every day we wake up ready and able to adjust our events and priorities under what we have come to know now as the "new normal".

The COVID19 pandemic is relentless. As a result of rising community cases, the government under their COVID recovery rollout efforts commandeered several legacy sporting facilities.

Unfortunately for some of our sports (Netball, Swimming, Basketball, Volleyball, Weightlifting, Powerlifting, High Performance) the decision to utilise their facilities resulted in them being displaced for extended periods which inadvertently affected their games calendars and preparations, especially our Tokyo 2020 qualifying sports.

We accept that these hard decisions were made in the best interest of the nation, and we will continue to press on to ensure that our voices and that of our members are heard, and that alternate venues

and funding arrangements are made available to our displaced members.

Now more than ever, if we wish to have sports, we must continue to look out for each other. We have to be better as individuals to ensure sport does not become an after-thought during these uncertain times.

To our athletes, national federations and other stakeholders; the rescheduling of Tokyo 2020 disrupted your training schedule to peak at the right time. We empathise with you as to the pains the pandemic has had on your calendar of events and operations.

Unfortunately, we are left in a holding pattern both on a local and international level as we do not know when the pandemic will subside. Yet through it all we were able to have Teariki Numa and Rose-Lee Numa from the sport of Sailing to qualify and secure their spots at the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Much to our delight we were able to maintain the majority of our family of corporate sponsors including our platinum sponsor Trukai Industries Limited; and welcome the much-needed funding support from the Australian Government through their PacificAus Sports Program to the tune of \$250,000.

We are forever indebted to our family of corporate sponsors and the Australian Government for their support to our athletes to aid their preparations for the Tokyo 2020 games.



Annual General Meeting 2020

The constant need to update things and work through contingency plans, is quite challenging, and that is the new norm for us, but we have great group at board, management and staff level to leverage and excel during this period.

Each day we are having to become more adept in the digital world as it has become a necessity to help us through this period: From virtual meetings, workshops and elections we embraced the influx as we are known to by our values of openness and excellence. We are lucky that some of our members have access to these facilities, resources and online platforms whilst others required our assistance.

From an operational and strategic perspective, the pandemic was an opportune period for the organisation to incorporate the risks and learnings of the new ways of doing business under our new strategic plan: Through consultations with experts, executive board, management, national federations, athletes and staff, we were able to refine our priorities and outputs under the new 2021-2024 strategic plan.

Probably the biggest lesson of 2020 was the clear message from National Federations at our last Annual General Assembly that the Executive of the PNGOC needed to focus more on enhancing the capacity and capabilities of National Federations in the future and to never take anything for granted: From our personnel, business, social, sport, accessing venues, travelling, fundraising, celebrating milestones and achievements.

All these activities we have taken for granted over the years.

From our learnings this year we have to minimise the risk for our members and stakeholders, so as to give them full confidence that we are doing everything to keep them safe and well equipped under the new Olympiad and strategic term.

It may well be that we do not have the full complement of our members and their athlete's training at sporting facilities this year or having access to regular competitions, but it is a hurdle that we will overcome together.

We are planning as if things are going to progress as usual this year, but also being realistic about the border and facilities closures, the learnings from this year, and to always have contingency plans in place.

To all the National Federations, your athletes, administrators, coaches, volunteers, we commend you for your application, efforts and achievements in what has been a challenging year.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Board, and the management and staff of the PNGOC for their support throughout this year.

We look forward to your performances over the next 12 months as we manoeuvre through these challenges together as one team one dream.

John.N.Dawanincura, Kt, OBE
President

