



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 10, 2020

Team PNG moving forward with Games Planning

Team PNG began its planning for the next four year cycle of events with a Games Planning workshop which was held last Saturday in Port Moresby.

Hosted by the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee, its aim is to assist National Federations to develop Games preparation plans for respective Games from 2021 to 2024. This is the first time the PNG Olympic Committee is embarking on long term planning with National Federations.

The workshop assists National Federations to set goals for the respective Games that they will be participating in as well as prioritizing the Games on their calendars.

President of the PNG Olympic Committee, Sir John Dawanincura said planning is very important in the success of any team or organisation.

“When you fail to plan, you are planning to fail,” he said, emphasizing the need for team work within each national federation and among different sports as well.

Over 80 representatives from the different sports who will be participating in the coming Games in this cycle attended the workshop. They included athletes, coaches and executives. Also in attendance were representatives from High Performance Sport PNG and the PNG Athletes Commission.

Deputy Secretary General of the PNG Olympic Committee, Andrew Lepani who oversaw the workshop said that this is the first workshop for the year and there is a possibility of having one or two more workshops later this year.

He said they are also working on developing a Team PNG Games Strategy aiming for the major Games which include the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in 2022, Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands in 2023 and the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024.

“At PNGOC we continue to provide opportunities to assist our Member National Federations to build their capacity in administration and coaching, which in turn builds up the capacity of their sport which leads to better and consistent performances on the world stage,” said Lepani.

This workshop led by PNG Olympic Committee's Performance Coordinator, Chris Amini, was another opportunity for Member National Federations to work with the PNG Olympic Committee to develop their plans for the next four years.

Amini will continue to work with sports to finalize their plans and set their goals for each Games.

The workshop also provided a reflection on the Games Evaluation workshop which was held in September, 2019 where a review and evaluation of the Samoa 2019 Pacific Games was done. The reason for that was to identify and understand the areas where Team PNG needed to improve on for the next Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands.

One of the outcomes from that workshop was for athletes and teams to be better prepared by having a good plan in place to build from.

"We have identified the areas we need to improve and we hope that you have reviewed your own performances from 2019 as well and are already looking to adjust your goals and plans for this next quadrennial," said Lepani.

PNGOC's funding support to National Federations has been strictly guided by the plans that they have in place and provide to the PNGOC. This will continue with even more details required going forward which were discussed during the workshop.

National Federations that do not have a plan will not get any funding support from the PNG Olympic Committee.

"Lack of planning will also indicate to PNG Olympic Committee the commitment you have towards your sport and Team PNG.

"Team PNG will be participating in respective Games every year and this is an opportunity for National Federations to start your planning process," said Lepani.

Sports had the opportunity to hear from IOC recognized sports expert and coach, Dr. Peter Davis who was impressed with the workshop. He has been engaged by the PNG Olympic Committee through Olympic Solidarity funding to assist with the development of the Team PNG Games strategy.

Dr. Davis said it was good to see athletes, coaches and sports executives all attending the same planning workshop and learning together.

END. //

###