

# Report of IASI Africa Region 2001-2005

By

**Dr. Clement FASAN VP IASI**

Africa as a continent is endowed with a lot of resources both human and material and there are potentials for economic and technological development. We are all aware of the debut of Africa in European sports most especially soccer as well as our strength in Athletics. In essence there are opportunities for sports information and documentation.

Africa as a continent has about 50 countries with National Olympic Committees. They have participated in major International competitions like Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and All African Games.

There are other regional and national competitions, in essence I am talking of awareness for sports information.

Despite these great stride in sports development there has been no appreciable development in sports information. The reasons are not far fetched.

- (i) Up till now the concept of sports information is not understood
- (ii) Africans still misconstrue it for Journalistic function
- (iii) Lack of government support and acceptance
- (iv) Low technological development
- (v) Poverty.

## IASI AFRICA IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

Three major issues will be addressed.

- (1) Sports Information Centre for Africa
- (2) Sports Structure in Africa
- (3) Sports Information Workshop for Africa.

If I may be allowed to judge the performance of IASI in Africa in the last four month, I would rather describe it as abysmal. The reason for this is not that of lack of initiative or inactivity but that of the problems that have been enumerated above.

### 1. Sports Information Centre for Africa

Immediately this present executive was elected, a meeting was scheduled with the Director of Olympic Solidarity. In attendance were Mr President Alain Poncet, Ms Nerida Clarke, Charl Durand and myself. The focus of discussion was the establishment of sports information Centre in Africa. Since 2001 I have done

everything possible to see the realisation of the project both as home and abroad. As directed by President, I got in touch with IOC official in charge of NOC relations. I was directed to see Mr Thomas Sithole the Secretary General of ANOCA. I met him twice: once in Nigeria and then in Lausanne. All these effort prove futile. Maybe the President will give us information on this.

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### 3. IASI workshop for Africa

There was an attempt to host one in Abuja in October 2003 during All Africa Games. Our inability to host was due to finance and logistics. However, the only successful workshop was that held in April 2004 at Maputo Mozambique.

### What to be done?

After reviewing the state and status of IASI in Africa, I have decided to explore private sector initiative in developing Sports Information centre. This I will discuss with the Executive.

We are proud of South Africa in terms of Sports Information and Documentation activities. Nigeria Olympics committee will commence a sports information centre any moment from now. The space and materials needed are now ready. However, I want to appeal to the executive to look at Africa and see what can be done in promoting sports information. This is a Macedonian call. I am not tired of developing the ideals of IASI in Africa. As I have said earlier Africa is a potential market for IASI. Please assits.

Thanks

Dr C.O. Fasan  
V.P. Africa  
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