



*Annual General Meeting
of*

NIGERIA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

Thursday, 16th December, 2021

***Aridof Resort Wellness & Spa
Yenagoa, Bayelsa State***



***Engr. Habu Gumel, OON, FNIM, FNSE
President, Nigeria Olympic Committee
Hon. Member, International Olympic Committee***

Dear Colleagues and Members of the Olympic Family,

It is my delight and privilege to receive all the delegates of our distinguished Olympic Family to the 2021 edition of the general assembly, here in the beautiful city of Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, the Glory of all Lands. First of all, I have to commend all our delegates present here for bracing the odds of travelling in these challenging days of Covid-19 to attend this general meeting

As we already know, this general assembly is a statutory requirement which we have always endeavoured to meet. Moreover, the Annual General Meeting is both our business and social platform that brings together the top brass of sports in our land, to deliberate on crucial issues, as well as interact and share experiences for the benefit of our sports in general.

The report before us is for programmes and activities covering the period 1st January to 31st December, 2020. And as we already know, the entire period of 2020 represented the heat of the global pandemic – Covid-19 which threatened the very fabrics of humanity including the sports sector. The pandemic practically took its toll on sporting activities which included the eventual postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to year 2021. The fall out of this was that we had no choice than to suspend or cancel most of our programmes, especially during the period of the lockdown. That informs the short nature of this report which we will be sharing in a moment.

However, before going into details, distinguished colleagues, I regret to inform you that during the period under review, the Olympic Movement lost some of our dear friends and members, as briefly highlighted in the passages section of this report. For this reason, please permit me to request that we all rise for a minute silence in honour of their souls departed.

I want to use this platform, first of all to welcome on board all the Presidents of National Federations and their board members who were elected at the National Federation elections, held on 30th September, 2021 in Abuja. Congratulations!

Again, I want to seize this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate our Chief Host, His Excellency Sen. Douye Diri, the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, the State Executive Council and the sports loving people of Bayelsa State for receiving the Olympic Family and for the hospitality we have enjoyed since we came to town.

Similarly, the appreciation of the general assembly goes to our dear Grand Patron and President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, the Honourable Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Chief Sunday Dare, who personally graced this assembly as well as our esteemed Patrons, Executive Committee Members, Presidents of National Federations, International Federation delegates, ANOCA representative, officials of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, athletes representatives and recognized organizations, for joining us at this assembly.

We equally acknowledge the contributions of the press and media in highlighting our programmes and activities. The Olympic Family appreciates the support of our partners, both in cash and kind which has enabled us to continually deliver our objectives.

As I proceed to the details of our programmes, please feel free to proffer objective criticisms or contributions that will guide better service delivery to our stakeholders. Dear colleagues, here below are our activities for the year under review.

1.0 *Trend of Events Leading to the Postponement of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games*

It becomes imperative for me to give a run-down of events leading to the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, for the benefit of our stakeholders.

Most of us are aware that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad, officially known as the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games was scheduled to take place from 24th July to 9th August, 2020 in the city of Tokyo, Japan. However, on the 24th of March, 2020, the International Olympic Committee, in a joint decision with the Japanese Government, the World Health Organization and the Tokyo Metropolitan Council, resolved to postpone the Tokyo Olympic Games to a later date but not later than the summer of 2021.



The decision to postpone the Games was reached as a result of the unprecedented global challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and its accelerating impact on mankind. The Nigeria Olympic Committee considered this decision to be in the best interest of humanity and therefore communicated same as a message of solidarity to the IOC.

The IOC sustained consultations with relevant stakeholders prior to and after the resolution to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The key stakeholders included the International Federations, the National Olympic Committees, Global Athlete Representatives, the International Paralympic Committee and many others.

To that end, a virtual conference meeting of the IOC with National Olympic Committees was held on Wednesday, 18th March, 2020 and subsequently another virtual meeting with the NOCs took place on Friday, 27th March, 2020.

During the meetings, the IOC outlined the principles established by its Executive Board and the criteria for their implementation in collaboration with stakeholders. Highlights of these principles included the following:

1. That Covid-19 was an unprecedented situation for the whole world and had great impact on athletes' preparations for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
2. The IOC was confident that the many measures undertaken by various authorities around the world would help curtail the Covid-19 virus.
3. That the IOC was fully committed to the delivery of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
4. The IOC encouraged all athletes of the world to continue to train and prepare for the Games as best as they could, even in the face of prevailing difficult conditions.
5. That the IOC would continue to provide vital information to the athletes through their NOCs and the Athletes 365 platform.
6. The IOC then established a Task Force, which assumed the name **"Here We Go"** to ensure coordinated actions by all stakeholders and with a mission to keep constant appraisal of the situation, which formed the basis of ongoing operational planning and necessary adaptations. The IOC was to be guided by the Task Force which would also monitor the implementation of various action plans.
7. The IOC noted the significant challenges faced by all Olympic Movement stakeholders, especially the athletes in securing final qualification places for the Tokyo Games and was reassured by the solidarity and flexibility shown by the athletes, the International Federations and National Olympic Committees in managing the challenges.

8. The IOC established that already, 57 per cent of athletes had secured qualification places to feature in the Games and for the remaining 43 percent, the IOC would collaborate with the International Federations to make necessary and practical adaptations to their respective qualification systems for Tokyo 2020, in line with the under-listed criteria: New dates would be established and made available to give clarity to all actions.
 - a. All quota places that had already been allocated would remain allocated to the NOCs and athletes that obtained them.
 - b. All necessary adaptations to qualification systems and all allocation of remaining places would be:
 - i. based on in-the-field results (e.g. IF ranking or historical results); and
 - ii. reflect, where possible, existing principles of the respective qualification systems (e.g. use of rankings or continental/regional specific event results).
9. Increases in athlete quotas were to be considered on a case-by-case basis under exceptional circumstances and with the support of Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Organising Committee.
10. Finally, the IOC pledged to continue to act in a responsible way and agreed to the overriding principles of protecting the health of all, safeguard the interest of athletes and support global measures in containing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Therefore, on the basis of the foregoing scenario, the International Olympic Committee, in full agreement with all relevant stakeholders resolved on 24th March, 2020 to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to 2021. The Games would hold from 23rd July to 8th August, 2021 and for historical reasons was to retain the name: ***Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games***.

2.0 ***Olympic Day Celebration***

Despite the challenges of Covid-19, all National Olympic Committees joined the International Olympic Committee in celebration of the Olympic Day. However, it was a digital Olympic Day Celebration, where much emphasis was laid on promoting Olympic ideals via the social media rather than physical mass gatherings for recreation and fitness. The event, organized by the NOC in collaboration with the Sport For All Commission, was held on Tuesday, 23rd June, 2020 at the National Stadium, Surulere Lagos. Participation was restricted to a few Olympians, selected Sport For All Commission members and NOC Staff. Activities of the day majorly featured aerobic exercises and walking.



A message received from the President of the International Olympic Committee, His Excellency Dr. Thomas Bach, which was read by NOC Secretary General and tagged “Go Active” enjoined participants to continue to engage with physical activity as a way of life and in promoting wellbeing. It was a message of hope that through sports and physical activities, the world would overcome the threats of Covid-19 pandemic.



3.0 **World Clean Up Day**

The Nigeria Olympic Committee organised the World Clean Up Day on Saturday, 19th September, 2020 in Lagos. It was the first time that the NOC organized the environmental preservation event.



The World Clean Up Day is a global clean up action uniting millions of people in promoting a cleaner planet for humanity. It's target is to engage a percentage of the national population to pick up mismanaged waste from nature in one day, the aim being to draw attention to the problem of waste management, create public awareness and influence choices of individuals and organizations on best methods of managing waste.

The Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) encouraged all National Olympic Committees of Africa to join other stakeholders of interest such as local municipalities, Ministries of Health, waste managers and departments of environment in celebrating the day.



The NOC engaged members of its Sports and Environment Commission in the planning and delivery of the event. By way of publicity, press releases were issued by the Public Relations Department of the NOC and the information was widely published in national newspapers, social media channels and also broadcast on radio and television.



Due to Covid-19 protocol, invitations were restricted to selected group of participants which included National Federation Presidents, Olympians, Paralympians, Executives, Staff and Commission members of the NOC, officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and members of the Press that covered the event. A total of 47 persons were present at the World Clean Up Day.



The event commenced by 11.00 a.m. at the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos with a brief speech by the President of Nigeria Olympic Committee, Engr. Habu Gumel, who was represented by the Secretary General, Mr. Olabanji Oladapo. Thereafter, the clean up exercise was flagged off and at the end, all refuse collected were gathered at the major refuse dump and carted away by the Lagos State Waste Management Authority.

4.0 Seminar For Aerobics / Fitness Instructors

Under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee and Olympic Solidarity, the Nigeria Olympic Committee, in collaboration with the Sport for All Commission, organized a Seminar for Aerobics / Fitness Instructors in Nigeria. The Seminar took place at Duban International Hotels Ltd, Ogba, Ikeja, Lagos from 20th – 21st February, 2020. It was the first to be organized for fitness instructors from clubs in Lagos and other States of the Federation.

A total of 31 fitness Instructors participated in the two day seminar which had high profile medical and fitness experts delivering lectures or papers. It was declared closed by the NOC Secretary General, Mr. Olabanji Oladapo.

5.0 **Advanced Sports Management Course**

The 5th edition of the Advanced Sports Management Course was held on 27th February 2020, at Duban Hotel, Ogba in Lagos State. 25 participants were accredited for the programme, majorly from Nigerian Universities, Colleges of Education. State Sports Councils and Para- Military.



The session was declared open by the 2nd Vice President of NOC, Mr. Francis Orbih. The high-level management training was anchored by two certified IOC Programme Directors – Prof. Clement Fasan and Mr. Jonathan Dyagas.

The second module of the course was held both virtually and on-site. It commenced from 18th to 20th August 2020, with 24 participants taking part. Dr. Grant Akata, a Management Consultant on Human Resources was invited to assist the two Programme Directors.



The third module was also held on virtual space and on-site as well from 9th to 11th November, 2020. Mrs. Nyakno Oluokun, President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (Mowe Chapter) was on ground to assist the Programme Directors - Prof. Clement Fasan and Mr. Jonathan Dyagas. The session was attended by 20 participants..

6.0 ***Seminar in Sports Medicine***

The NOC Medical and Scientific Commission organized a two-day Seminar with the theme – Building Blocks for Protection of Clean Athletes Health – Strategies to Actualise the Mandate of the International Olympic Committee.

The Seminar was held on 19th and 20th November, 2020 at Chief Molade Okoya-Thomas Indoor Sports Hall, Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere, Lagos.

As a result of Covid-19, the event was held both virtually and physically. The Seminar was attended by a record 250 participants, comprised of medical personnel, (Doctors, Physiotherapists, Nutritionists, Psychologists and Surgeons), all drawn from the various States Sports Councils, Paramilitary and recognized organizations.



7.0 ***Olympic Value Education Programme (OVEP)***

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) introduced the Olympic Value Education Programme (OVEP) to protect the sanctity in sports participation and effectively contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youths around the world on how to practice sport without discrimination of any kind, in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.



The Nigeria Olympic Committee, in spreading the noble values of the Olympic Movement proposed Olympic Value Education Programme for Nigerian University Athletes with the aim of inculcating the Olympic spirit in them. The programme is also aimed at developing future Olympic athletes with high regard for excellence, respect and friendship. Above all, it is designed to promote positive behaviours and build healthy relationships between young people and their communities.



The 2020 OVEP programme was structured to take place in three phases at the geo-political zones. The first phase was hosted by Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos from 16th-19th March 2020. 10 Universities were invited to take part in the programme. The second phase took place in Delta State University from 8th-11th November 2020 while the last segment took place in University of Abuja from 12th-15th November 2020 anchored by the Chairman of Olympic Education Commission, Mr. Mohammed Abdullahi.. All in all, more than 100 athletes from 40 Universities in Nigeria have benefitted from the Olympic Values Education initiative.



8.0 Athletes Commission Forum

The Athletes Commission of NOC organized an Athletes Forum, under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee in Abuja from 15th to 17th November 2020. The three-day programme was attended by members of the Commission, representatives of National Sports Federation, Paralympians and athletes of both Olympic and Non-Olympic sports. The event was anchored by the Chairman of NOC Athletes Commission, Mr. Olumide Oyediji.



9.0 Olympic Solidarity Scholarships

As highlighted in the trends leading to the postponed Tokyo Olympic Games, Nigerian athletes who were benefitting from Olympic Solidarity training scholarships continued to enjoy the scholarship grants even after the rescheduling of the Games. As of the period under review, 16 athletes were on Olympic Solidarity scholarships while 3 others were beneficiaries of Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) scholarships.

Similarly, the NOC in collaboration with IOC and Sports Accords provided opportunities for Nigerian Sports Medicine practitioners to benefit from Certificate / Diploma courses, offered on distance-learning and part-time basis. The programmes which ran on one-year and two-year sessions targeted licensed sport medicine physicians providing medical services to athletes.

In 2020, the following were beneficiaries of the distance learning programmes:

- **IOC Programme in Sports Medicine and Protection of Clean Athletes**
 - Dr. Akinbinu Babatunde
 - Dr. Osinaike Jimisayo Omotola
 - Dr. Ameh Johnson
- **IOC Programme for Mental Health in Elite Sports**
 - Dr. Kareem Folajaiye Mukhtar
 - Dr. Garba Lari Hyedima
- **IOC Diploma in Sports Nutrition**
 - Dr. Adebukola Bojuwoye Olurotimi
 - Dr. Udugwu Obinnaya
- **IOC Diploma in Physical Therapies**
 - Dr. Olawunmi Ogunsusi

10.0 NOC Secretariat

As most of us are already aware, we have done significant renovation works on the building housing the NOC Secretariat in Lagos. Having re-roofed the building, we also embarked on extensive interior works, followed by replacement of old systems – computers, air conditioners and furniture. We are continuing with the face-lift of the building, landscaping and environmental works to give the Secretariat the befitting look of an international organization.



11.0 Development of Olympic Training Centre Amuwo Odofin, Lagos

This relates to the development of the 6.8 hectares of land belonging to the Nigeria Olympic Committee and which was donated to the Committee by the Lagos State Government in 1984. The land is located on Olympic Street, Amuwo Odofin, Lagos.

Successive NOC administrations have over the decades tried to develop the piece of land but lack of funds had stalled such efforts. We have been engaging with private developers that will finance both the commercial and sports segments of the project. The Executive Board and the general assembly have both given consent to the project. However, we had encountered delays as we were required to regularize documentation and returns at the Corporate Affairs Commission, especially regarding our late Trustees. Dear colleagues, I am glad to say that these issues have now been resolved and we will hopefully make rapid progress on the project.

12.0 NOC Land in Abuja

We have submitted an application to the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for the allocation of land to the NOC for our Secretariat building. Incidentally, the NOC had earlier been allocated a land in the past but we had to release it to ANOCA for the building of its current headquarters.

13.0 Meetings

13.1 Executive Committee and General Meetings

During the period under review, the Executive Committee met on five occasions, mostly on virtual platform as a result of Covid-19 pandemic. The meetings were in the months of January, May, July, November and December 2020.

Similarly, the Annual General Meeting of our Committee was held for the first time on virtual basis, also due to the challenges of Covid-19. The General Meeting took place on Thursday, 17th December, 2020. As usual, the meeting attracted wide participation of members of the Olympic Family on the virtual space.

13.2 Webinar on Safe Sport for NOCs

A webinar on Safe Sport was organized for the benefit of National Olympic Committees on 22nd October, 2020 by the International Olympic Committee. Participants included the President, Secretary General and Staff of NOC as well as some National Federations officials.

13.3 Seminar for Secretaries General of African NOCs

The 37th Seminar for Secretaries General of African National Olympic Committees was organized by the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa in November 2020. The Seminar which was held virtually was attended by the NOC Secretary General, Mr. Olabanji Oladapo.

14.0 Passages

This general assembly commiserates with the families of the following members of the Olympic Family who have passed away to the great beyond.

- Hon. Yahaya Mohammed, former President of Nigeria Weightlifting Federation who died on 17th April, 2020.
- Mr. Yinka Badare, former NOC Treasurer who passed away in March 2021.
- Dr. William Boyd, former NOC Secretary General who died in June 2021
- Ms Uche Nebedum, former NOC Deputy Secretary who passed away on 26th August, 2021.

15.0 Conclusion

Distinguished colleagues and members of the Olympic Family, on behalf of my colleagues in the Executive Committee, I have the privilege of presenting the President's Report of activities for 2020 to this general assembly for reviews and adoption.

I want to appreciate the solidarity and support of all members of the Olympic Family – our distinguished Patrons, National Federations of Olympic and Non-Olympic Sports, the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development and our partners in the delivery of our objectives.

Finally, the Olympic Family is once again thanking His Excellency, Sen. Douye Diri, Executive Governor of Bayelsa State and his government for welcoming us to Yenagoa for this august assembly.

Distinguished Colleagues, I thank you all for your attendance as I wish this noble assembly most fruitful deliberations. I also wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy 2022 Sporting Year in advance..



ENGR. HABU AHMED GUMEL, OON, FNSE, FNIM

President

Nigeria Olympic Committee