



BOTSWANA NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



20th May, 2020

IMPACT ON COVID-19 ON SPORTS AND BNO PLAN IN 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has dealt a blow to sport, with the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games scheduled for 24th July - 9th August 2020 being postponed to 2021. With countries on lockdown and Botswana declaring a State of Emergency, the camp for the athletes on the provisional list was called off, and this disrupted the training plan. The IOC with advice from the World Health Organization and in consultation with other stakeholders such as National Olympic Committees postponed the Games to 23rd July - 8th August 2021.

The lockdown, with social distancing and movement restrictions impacted on training; Mascom supported all the athletes and officials who were in camp with data package valued at P200 000.00 for two (2) months. This enabled remote communication between the BNO and/or its various stakeholders including athletes, coaches, athletes support personnel and member Federations. The BNO also utilized ICT platforms to enable communication from homes with various stakeholders; athletes and affiliates. BNO was able to hold all Board and Board Committees' meetings using platforms such as Zoom and Google meetings. There has been savings in time and resources to get work done; such as no travel to work or for meetings, paperless meetings; less utilization of utilities at the office etc. In addition, BNO piloted shift work prior to the lock down, and the lessons from this will be used for future planning.

BNO supported the athletes during the lockdown with the following:

1. A data package by Mascom to enable them to communicate with their coaches and exchange training programmes through multimedia and to share progress on real time.
2. A food basket to provide nutrition.
3. A camp allowance to assist with out of pocket expenses.
4. A monthly allowance for all athletes that have qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The Government through MYSC has taken a decision to give a monthly allowance for all athletes that have qualified for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.
5. Ten (10) athletes on the Olympic Solidarity Scholarship receive a monthly stipend allowance; these are from athletics, swimming and boxing.

As Government relaxes the regulations, with guidance from Health Authorities, the Botswana National Olympic Committee working with the Local Organising Committee

will review the training plan and budget to resume training. Botswana has to date qualified five (5) athletes for the Games from boxing and athletics being: Keamogetse Kenosi, Christine Botlogetswe, Galefele Moroko, Nijel Amos and Amantle Montsho.

Once the State of Emergency is lifted, BNOG will continue with its planned fundraising activities. A Fundraising Trust was established in 2019 to raise funds to meet athlete preparation needs such as; transport locally and abroad, accommodation locally and abroad, training attire and equipment, nutrition, coaches and competition fees among others. The SMS donation which was to run up to the end of August, 2020 has been extended to the end of August 2021 after the Olympic Games. The public is encouraged to donate P5 using any mobile platform by texting the word “teambw” to 16789. Together we can qualify more athletes.