Dear ASA Members,

The ASA President thank the ASA Council for attending the 2018 ASA AGM, as well as for the constructive contributions made to govern and direct ASA.

For the first time in more than a decade ASA was able to host an ASA AGM that give direction and substance to the following year, 6 months in advance.

The ASA Board and ASA Office are now working towards October 2018 where the readiness for the 2019 athletics season will be presented to the ASA Council.

Please find attached the ASA President’s Report, presented at the 2018 ASA AGM. The content there-off not only report on the past year’s activities but give guidance in preparing for 2019.

Athletics greetings

Richard Stander
ASA ACEO

Not signed due to electronic sending.
REPORT BY ASA PRESIDENT MR ALECK SKHOSANA PRESENTED AT THE 2018 ASA AGM - 23 JUNE 2018 - OR TAMBO GARDEN COURT HOTEL, KEMPTON PARK.

1. INTRODUCTION

Good morning Ladies and Gentleman,
Vice President,
ACEO and Staff,
ASA Board Members,
Sascoc Representative,
Presidents and Vice Presidents of Provinces
Chairperson’s of Associate members
CEOs and General Secretaries,
ASA Commissions and Committees
Adhoc Committee Members
Ladies and Gentlemen

We are gathered here from yesterday to reshape and innovates the future of athletics in our country. We were given a mandate by the members in 2016 QGM to prioritize nothing else but the development of athletics in SA.

We are to give an annual report based on the achievement s and report the challenges that may be on our way as a family of ASA. We thank you for all the hard work you are doing in your respective provinces throughout the country which has resulted in Athletics SA becoming a giant in Africa and the World.

The ASA Board is proud of your commitment and dedication to the course of athletics. We urge all of you to focus on ensuring that Athletics is prioritized by all who serve the sport.

I will be report a number of areas that the ASA Board has tasked to share with you all. Please pay attention as I go through the topics.

2. OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

As previously stated in our ASA Council Meeting in October 2017, our administration is improving daily despite the same number of staff members we have had over the past 4 years since we got elected as the board. The office is under the stewardship of ACEO Mr Stander assisted by the staff compliment of 13 staff members.

The staff includes general assistants who work on doing the choirs of the office daily as well as two interns. We have streamlined the operations to fit to the business of athletics by having critical departments to deal with the following:
2.1. Membership
2.2. Competition and Technical
2.3. Team preparation
2.4. Team Presentations
2.5. Finance

3. ASA BOARD

It is important to report that the ASA Board is working hard and united in dealing with any issues that affect the running of Athletics. We are dealing with policy and staff deals with operations on daily basis.

I must thank the commitment from all the board members to their tasks and responsibilities whenever they are allocated to do.

4. PRESIDENTS FORUM

Yesterday (22 June 2018), for the first time in over 10 years, ASA had an important session with Provincial Presidents and Chairpersons of Associates to deal with issues outside the formalities of the AGM and Council Meeting procedures. This is the best way to share best practice and challenges facing the members and ASA. A number of important matters were dealt with by members, and of which, some are part of the ASA Agenda today.

Those who were present will make our meeting simple, as they will guide us to arrive at quicker resolutions. By nature, the Presidents Forum is not a decision making body, but recommendations can be made and presented to the Council to debate and endorse or reject. This was not the first and last we will have another President’s Forum as the need arises. Thank you very much for the positive response from all the members. We had all the presidents and chairpersons except two who had bereavement in the families.

5. SASA CHAIRPERSONS PROVINCES

The ASA Board invited the Chairpersons of the 9 political SASA structures to seat along us as council and participates in the deliberations if they feel so. This is a privilege extended to SASA to make sure that the family is talking with one voice and authority given by the ASA Council in dealing with tilling problems in their respective corners of the provinces.

After our meeting with the Director General SRSA and Chief Director DBE in March, we realized the challenges that are on the ground. We agreed with the SRSA DG to tackle them at our level. We also took a lot of blame on your behalf as Associate members of ASA.

Some of those issues are so small that they should not be happening at your level. We refused to disband the SASA and run schools as ASA. What we emphasized is that schools need their space alongside ASA; they need support and funding in order to make them work efficiently.
We also refused to endorse the issue of non-teaching staff and parents not to be involved in the running of School sport. If we have to arrive to that decision there must be first development of educators to run sport so that there are no challenges going forward.

The SRSA DG agreed and emphatically said the structures of athletics must be run by athletics and decides on how to reach out to the furthest hinterlands of this country. We encourage you to work tirelessly in protecting the interfaith of our sport by allowing athletics trained people to run and manage our teams. We charge you with capacitation of coaches working hand and glove with ASA, Province and government departments. ASA has the training manuals and the rest is for you and ASA and Provinces to action in the best interest of sport.

6. EPG REPORT

The EPG report was issued by the Minister. It showed some great improvements but still in some areas ASA did not score the set targets. What is good about the EPG is that it is based on what we want to achieve. As ASA, we set a very high standard not merely to meet the requirements of the EPG, but to solve problems that will be fatal if not taken care of by ASA now. The statistics shows a major decline and increase in the population of SA youth.

The Black African and black in general versus the white population is a shocking statistics that we must address if we want our future generations to have sport in this country. The possibility of not having athletes representing SA in the next 20 years is a reality if we do not increase our development and participation of Black African in athletics at schools and beyond. The white population in the next few years will constitute in the near future less than five percent of the SA population.

7. SPONSORSHIP AND PARTNERSHIPS

The ASA Board and Administration have been successful in ensuring that the 2017/18 season get support from, NLC, All tiers of Government, Broadcasting Rights Fees form SABC, Liquid Telekom and other small partners.

We are delighted that our decision to appoint the Marketing Company last year to look for sponsorship for ASA has produced positive results by having Liquid Telekom as major sponsor for the Athletics Grand Prix Series.

There are many other sponsors who are being approached and some contemplating to sign with ASA in the near future.

We thank Stillwater Promotions for their sterling and tireless work which produced these results.

The best is yet to come for ASA in terms of sponsors. Let’s give Stillwater Promotions a good round of applause.
8. LEGAL BATTLES

ASA got embroiled in a number of legal battles some dating back to almost over 7 years, some justified others not. Since our last ASA Council Meeting in October 2017, we briefed you of the legal issues that were being defended by ASA Attorneys.

We are proud to report we have won on your behalf the following cases against ASA after they were successful defended by our attorneys:


We won this matter hands down and the High Court judge did not see why ASA should be held accountable. The matter has been referred back to Court by the same technical official challenging AGN. ASA lawyers are working with AGN lawyers in tackling the matter.

8.2. Marketing Company that claim they did a job during the 2016 CAA Senior Track and Field Championships in Durban.

An estimated claim of over R11 million lawsuits was set against ASA. With the defence from our legal gurus, we won it and the High Court Judge ruled in favour of ASA and the marketing company was ordered to pay the costs after tax.

Thanks to our attorneys who worked tirelessly to collate all the papers before presenting to the Senior Counsel and prepare for the High Court. A special thank you to KZNA for their support in providing information to ASA legal that proved that operations for the CAA Championships were done by ASA and KZNA.

8.3. SASCOC versus ASA

8.3.1. The matter as reported last year was referred to the Arbitration Foundation of SA. The arbitrator ruled in favours of ASA. The rest is history and we should focus in working together in building blurred bridges between SASCOC.

8.3.2. As a result of the legal investigation it became clear there were irregularities in the 2016 SASCOC elections and the ASA legal team advised ASA to challenge these irregularities. This is for the ASA Council to decide.

9. HOSTING OF ASA EVENTS BY PROVINCES IN 2018

We have had a number of events in 2017/2018 year. Many member provinces supported the call to host these events and championships. We wish to thank all the presidents and entire leadership for the best effort in presenting the best events and shows.

For the record purposes, the following provinces played a role, AGN, CGA, EPA, AMPU, ACNW, and BOLA etc. Please convey the same thanks and gratitude to the members who were part of the LOC.
The cities and towns that deployed resources to make sure that the events were of great success. Persuade them again to host in 2019 and beyond.

10. ATHLETICS TRACKS INFRASTRUCTURE

We are working hard in trying to align and promote our sport by having infrastructure for athletics in the communities. We have received a number of requests from far and wide places where small and medium municipalities are looking for specifications for the track and field stadium.

In most cases the engineers get appointed and get stuck as they do not have the minimum national and international standard and requirements as set by IAAF.

Through the support of the technical and manufacturing specialists companies we will guide and link those municipalities with the best people who are designers or track makers themselves.

We urge this house to be vigilant wherever you are to guide and direct the municipalities by giving them the specifications as per IAAF Technical Department. Your offices and Technical Committee must have these easily available to the members and municipalities. Other than that ASA Office Technical Department will assist in giving the IAAF Specifications.

11. GOLD LABEL CAPE TOWN CITY MARATHON INCORPORATING SA MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are delighted that WPA via the Cape Town City Marathon - Gold Label Race has extended a hand to SA to host the ASA Marathon Championships for 2018 to run alongside the City Marathon.

It is going to be the first SA and Continental Championships to be incorporated into a City Marathon especially Gold Label Race.

Thank you to the WPA and Cape Town City Marathon for the innovation and taking the mother body along. ASA will never be the same again. Thank you!

12. IAAF REGULATION ON FEMALE ATHLETES

The matter is under legal hands and we have already filled our papers with CAS. At the same time we are engaging with the IAAF leadership in trying to avoid the waste of time and resources to get to the CAS. We will update you in due course as the matter progresses.

We know that the subject is highly scientific by nature and needs highly qualified people to reflect on it. We followed what we said when we got elected in June 7, 2014 that we will use experts where we are inadequate as the board of ASA.

We wish to express our gratitude to SRSA, SASCOC, legal experts and medical experts from a variety of institutions across the country and abroad. The South African public and Women’s Rights groups and many other individuals who participate in one
way or the other in denouncing this proposed regulation as passed by the IAAF Council using their prerogative to write rules between Congresses.

ASA as a disciplined member has the right to engage the IAAF President and Council on the side-lines for anything before it gets to a CAS level. This is what we have done and will continue to do until such time that IAAF close the door of engagement.

13. ASA FINANCES

The ASA Board has worked tirelessly in making the finances look better. You all know where we are coming from as ASA. We are proud to say there is hope that the future will be brighter. Despite the increase in the number of athletes representing SA, we have made sure that each and every selected athlete does not pay for their travel and accommodation costs to represent SA anywhere in the world.

We look forward to increase the number of athletes that will represent this country at the major championships in Africa and World Championships. We are striving to get better every year in terms of our books. We have looked other possible streams of income to make ASA finances better.

As you know from your own provinces and organizations that finding money for sport is becoming harder due to harsh economic conditions the country and the world are facing. We have to spend what we have but need to be stringent and focused on our core Business as ASA.

We thank the Finance Committee, the Staff, and the Auditing firm for all the hard work in ensuring that the finances are in order.

14. DOMESTIC COMPETITIONS

14.1. Liquid Communications Athletics Grand Prix Competition Series

The LCAGPS was an innovation that we thought was not going to materialize. However, the quality of the events and the participants that came all over the world was amazing. It set the bar so high that LCAGPS is ranked below the IAAF Diamond Series. The presence of the international stars of SA and from other countries gave ASA lots of praises beyond our borders.

Athletes of this country fought and defended the flag in their own soil. Records were broken and international stars defeated by locals. It was a huge story for the country and athletics.

Thanks to our athletes and coaches for the exceptional display of talent and excellence against the top World achievers. We will be failing as ASA Board if we do not thank the Provinces CGA, AGN and BOLA for the organization of these events.

Indeed, thank you to the Stillwater Promotions for the excellent work behind the scenes, especially the contracting of best athletes for the series and Mr. Sepeng.
for advising and spearheading the hunt for the SA athletes including others from the rest of the world.

We will be having the same LCAGPS next year. We hope to launch the other series that will focus purely on SA athletes and others that will enhance the opportunities of local athletes.

Amongst these new innovations will be Mbulaeni Mulaudzi Memorial Track and Field in honour of his achievements. Lastly, the ACEO and General Managers and Presidents of host provinces will have to pull all stops to make the series a success. The host Municipalities too must play their roles. The University of Pretoria also played their role. We thank all of you for taking Athletics to the nest level.

14.2. ASA Track And Field Championships

The domestic season was great and produced the best results. There is no need to elaborate further as all of you had played a role in one way or the other in making the season a huge success.

Thanks to the coaches and athletes for working hard to take the sport to the next level. Athletics is at the highest level ever in this country. It is not me who is saying this but public and media.

Congratulations to the Track and Field for all the hard work. Look beyond the criticism you get from all of us, it is because you are doing some good work. Thank you.

14.3. ASA Road Running Championships 10km, 21,1 Km, 42,2km, And IAAF World Half Marathon In Spain

The Road Running is getting stronger in terms of performance as it used to be some years ago. We have seen athletes clocking excellent times inside and outside the country.

We however need to strengthen our selection criteria so that our athletes can begin to win medals at the world championships.

The Running Commission should work smartly and create training camps for the athletes who will be representing SA at the major championships. Otherwise, a significant improvement is visible and hope more is yet for come.

The championships for this year will be held in the next few weeks for the 21,1km in PE. The conditions are excellent and we look forward to the best performances and new records to be set by our athletes.

The most important thing is that the 2018 SA Half Marathon Championships will incorporate the Southern Region Championships. We urge EPA to prepare for this with the view that it will be a regular Championships, always at the same time.
The same thing for the SA 42,2km will be hosted by WPA alongside the Sanlam City of Cape Town Marathon.

14.4. **ASA National And Continental Cross Country Championships**

The Cross Country Running is growing in this country. The growth is mostly at primary school level. Little growth is noticed in the 17 to 23 years categories. We must correct this situation.

The 2017 Cross Championships was a huge success. The 2018 Cross Country Championships for this year will be even bigger as it has become a trend to see the numbers increasing by hundreds.

We need to work harder, all of us in the provinces, to develop cross country running for the young and old. The secret of success in middle and long distance is in cross country training and running.

I did say it before and I am saying today that Cross Country is divorced from Road Running and Track and Field Commissions. Our calendar must speak to this triangle which helps athletes to be prepared for international events and championships.

We strongly advise that the three Commissions Chairs must meet as matter of urgency to look at this matter and produce an informed program that promotes Track, Cross and Road training and competition. The ACEO must facilitate this meeting of minds and report to the ASA Board.

14.5. **ASA Trail Running Championships**

For the first time under the auspices of ASA the 2018 Trail Running Championships was organized in Port Elizabeth which was a huge success for ASA. A team was selected after the champs to represent South Africa at the World Trail Running Championships.

14.6. **Sasa Primary And Secondary Schools Championships Track And Field, Cross Country**

The SASA Championships was a resounding success despite the tilling problems from some of the quarters. We want to thank the SASA leadership present today for doing everything humanly possible to make sure that these competitions do take place all over the country.

What is left for SASA is to think of making your competitions to spread widely in terms of performances. We are under scrutiny for not producing more Black African Youth Women, yet the statistics have shown that 84% of the population under 23 is coming from the Black African communities.

If we want to come out of the situation it is critical for SASA to spread their programmes to reach the rural and urban areas of our country. We know you are...
trying and you will continue to strive for better image of your organization and ASA.

We have seen that some of the provinces are so weak because of the manner in which they are structured and demarcated. If you look back to the USSASA demarcations, the demarcation was such that it created a lot of competition with the province and it was easy for schools to be coordinated.

We have also refused to disband SASA for the sake of following other national codes. We have said and will continue to say SASA is a baby of ASA in good and in bad times. We will be together so long as ASA is the custodian of Athletics in this country. We expect the same to happen at the provincial level.

Athletics is organized by athletic structures assisted by government in the case of schools. The rules of engagement and competition will come from ASA having been discussed by SASA and ASA.

14.7. **USSA Championships Track And Field Championships**

We had an opportunity to meet with USSA Athletics and USSA NEC in April during the SA Youth and Junior Championships in Paarl.

We used the meeting to clarify and stem ASA authority as the only national governing body in SA.

We also made it clear to the USSA NEC that we want our member to represent in the USSA NEC where decisions are made in behalf of Athletics.

Strict timelines were agreed upon between the two parties and we will be getting the report at the end of this month.

Apart from that ASA made it clear that the membership of USSA is dependent on their compliance with ASA Constitution and programmes.

14.8. **Masters Championships**

Masters have always made us proud whenever they select a team to represent SA at the World Masters Championships. We are grateful and proud that you look after a sizable number of athletes in our country. Most interestingly is that you cater for the great grand masters. Please continue to do the good work and encourage more people to join the Masters / Veterans all over the country.

Last time we were told that SAMA holds 12 world records. We urge you to liaise early with the ASA office if there are any changes from the international body that regulates masters so that we can add them up in our rules.

We also believe that you need to begin to have Masters Meetings with provincial Masters so that they understand the rules and regulations of the WMA.
This will help a great deal in reducing conflict and misunderstanding in a competition.

We owe each other a meeting so that we strategize on few things going forward. The ACEO will coordinate on our behalf with you President, the sooner the better.

14.9. SAPS Participation At ASA Championships

We have seen the increase of SAPS in many of our championships. We hope and believe that you will increase the recruitment of younger people to join Athletics. We still need to share with you a number of programmes that will enhance Athletics development in our country and more especially for the SAPS benefit.

It is time for ASA and SAPS to sign the MOU on a number of mutual and beneficial programs for police and staff as well our athletes. We are charging the SAPS member to host the Technical Official Seminar in Pretoria on behalf of ASA. Please get going and write all the letters to the seniors as required. We will be supporting you with information as ASA.

14.10. SANDF Championships

The need to have cooperation and partnership with the SANDF cannot be over emphasized. Other nations are riding on the presence of Defence to recruit and place athletes who are young promising talented sportsmen and women.

We are one country with the best facilities standing empty with accommodation and sport facilities. We humble request that you link us now with the General and Minister directly so that we kill this matter once and for all.

We have seen the same increase in the number of SANDF athlete’s vests in some of the ASA National Championships. It is indeed encouraging and we urge you to increase the numbers.

Perhaps we have to review our policy in terms of associate membership status based on their participation than to have a member which is dormant and not organizing and participating in the National Championships.

14.11. DCS Championships

ASA and DCS signed an MOU last year to cooperate in a number of issues affecting the development of athletics in the country as well within the department of correctional services.

We are happy to see more participants at the marathons but we need your members to participate in other disciplines of athletics.

We charge DCS to host in their facilities Provincial events such as Cross Country leagues or Championships for all our members. AGN, CGA, WPA,
From the Athletics South Africa Office:

For more information
E-Mail: DurellJ@athleticsssa.co.za
Website: www.athletics.org.za

14.12. All Disability Athletics Championships Including Special Olympics

The ASA Board has taken a firm stance on making sure that all forms of disabilities that have athletics should work together in advancing the sport of athletics. We are aware of the different affiliations internationally, but for the purposes of your athlete’s development and preparation it is important to work together so that we can work with you as expected and directed by the SRSA.

We always get requests on the eleventh hour to assist in the organization of your competitions or national games which we appreciate, but we need to be organized and plan together well in advance.

Lastly, ASA is your only home in SA. Use the opportunity to develop coaches, technical officials and administrators for the sport.

The ACEO will work with the Commissions and Committees in helping you to come closer to one another and to ASA.

Congratulations for all your achievements in various competitions all over the country and the world. In the future please ensure that you work with ASA to enforce credible selecting of teams. Let us know your achievements as Associates of ASA.

15. CONTINENTAL COMPETITIONS

15.1. COSASA in Botswana (Schools)

The competition of the Schools was supposed to be held in Botswana. We met with the departments of Education and Sport and Recreation to prepare for this competition but somehow it failed to materialize for reasons not know SASA and ASA.

We must plan better ourselves next time and have our plan A and B in case we do not get the support required. We must circulate information to the schools and departments in September about what we will be doing and clearly state what we will do if the government does not come to party.

Our school going youth must be exposing to competition beyond our borders including ISF. We need not to beg any one going forward for the 2019 season.

15.2. CAA Southern Region Youth and Junior Championships in Boksburg, RSA

The first Youth and Junior CAA Southern Region Championships were held in Boksburg, Central Gauteng Athletics, South Africa.
ASA came with an innovation after IAAF decides to stop the organization of the Youth Championships at the World Level. We thank the CGA for all their support in making history for the continent. I am pleased on behalf of the ASA Board to announce CAA Council will be adopting this format at its Meeting in Nigeria in August 2018.

The next competition is going to be hosted again by South Africa as per the request of the CAA SR leadership.

15.3. CAA Senior Track and Field Championships in Asaba, 1-5 August 18, Nigeria

ASA will be sending a team to Nigeria to defend the titles won in Durban and Marrakech at the same competition.

A strong preliminary team has already been named and hope to keep it as strong as it look on the paper. Our purpose is to conquer Africa with huge margin compared to the previous competitions over the past years.

Thank you to all the coaches who are preparing these athletes for the different competitions. Thank you to all the supporting teams who work behind the scenes in ensuring the athletes remain healthy and injury free all the time.

15.4. CAA Cross Country Championships in Algiers

Team South Africa did not produce the desired results at the African Cross Country Champs in Algiers. The combination of factors was at play and there is no doubt that Northern Hemisphere winter conditions are unbearable for our athletes.

We need to ask ourselves whether it worth sending a team from our country to compete in a muddy and frosty weather conditions. The Cross Country Commission will need to answer this question and report to the board.

The ACEO are to deal with the commission and report back to the ASA Board.

15.5. African Youth Olympic Games in Algiers and Argentina

A youthful team has been handed to SASCOC which is sending a team to Algiers for the African Youth Games which is a combination of sporting Codes.

The games are to take place in July 2018. The African Continental Olympic Committee will select a team that will represent Africa in Argentina in October 2018.

We hope ASA will have more youth athletes in the African team. Congratulations to the athletes selected and those provinces that have Athletes in the team SA.

Please send a message to the coaches to continue to prepare these athletes for the Olympic titles not only for the African championships or games.
16. INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN 2018

16.1. IAAF World Junior Championships in Finland 10 -15 JULY 2018

A strong team for the IAAF World Juniors has already been announced. Members have seen it. We hope this team will come with good results and improve our overall standing to the top 10 from number 22.

16.2. Athletics World Cup in London 14-15 July 2018

This is the first time the competition of this nature is organized. The top 8 Nations in terms of IAAF Rankings were invited.

We hope that our country and team will do well in this competition.

SA is the only county in Africa and the Southern hemisphere to participate.

16.3. IAAF World Cup Race Walk Championships in China

A number of records were broken by our male and female athletes.

This is what we always say in our statement that if the athletes do not medal, they must break national and continental records.

Congratulations to the Commission and Race work Committee for the sterling work. Results are showing that these athletes are being coached by experienced coaches.

16.4. IAAF Trial Running Championships

For the first time, ASA send a team of 3 members, 1 male and 2 females to the World Trail Running World Championship in Castellon, Spain

The athletes gained valuable experience and hope they will carry the flag of SA high in future events.

16.5. Commonwealth Games 2018

Our athletes did well at the Commonwealth Games in Australia. We increased the number of CWG champions and new games record was set by our athletes.

Congratulations to all those athletes who flew the flag of SA high.

16.6. IAAF Global Run Day 24.1 Mile in Johannesburg 6 June 2018

ASA was given the honour to host the IAAF Global Run 24:1 Mile Race. It was well attended and organized by CGA on behalf of ASA.
Thank you to the CGA leadership for the work well done. Please convey the word of appreciation to the City of Johannesburg for the support throughout the preparation and staging of the Race in a busy market Theatre.

17. ATHLETES

We have seen a lot of growth in the number of athletes that are producing outstanding performances at our competitions. No less than 33 ASA records were broken the past 18 months. No less than 9 of these records should for more than 20 years.

We know athletes do not grow like mushrooms but come from the hard work of dedicated coaches who do anything and everything to see their athletes succeeding in their event disciplines.

Youth development is so important to have but it needs to be sustained to be the best junior and seniors.

18. COACHES

More coaches are needed urgently to sustain the growth of athletics in schools and clubs. We urge all members of ASA to priorities this area by engaging government departments relevant to the youth issues.

A stern warning is given to the practicing coaches that the issue of drugs in athletics is serious and will lead to expulsion and possible arrest if you are found to have participated in the process of getting the athlete to dope.

The ASA coaches committee must come with firm recommendations on how to deal with the coaches who are found guilty of doping athletes.

19. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

We still need to work in developing technical officials in this country. Emphasis must be on training of teachers from schools in order to ensure that we spread far and wider in all our communities irrespective of their economic situation.

The ASA Board is clear that without the development of more people, our sport will suffer the consequences in few years to come if not already suffering.

20. ATHLETES REPRESENTATIVES

We have to report to you as Members that AR's have a role to play in supporting and managing athletes after they have signed them.

This is not to be interpreted that AR’s take over the ownership of the athlete from the club and the province as well as the country.

The coaches who train the athletes and the clubs as well Province must be respected and remain in charge of the athlete. AR must support but do not have the right to select and enter athletes for the championships.
We have seen a tendency where managers and coaches of teams are dictated by the AR’s. In some instances the AR go beyond the province and withdraw the athlete from the competition.

ASA is going to strengthen the rules for the 2019 and beyond. If you are withdrawn without following proper channels ASA will apply stringent measures that will have serious implications to the future of the athlete.

We urge provincial presidents to take steps that will ensure that athletes who deserve to win medals are not withdrawn from national and provincial champions for no reason.

21. COMRADES MARATHON 2018

We wish to congratulate all the SA athletes who participate in the 2018 Comrades Marathon. We thank the winners in both the men’s and women’s category for flying the flag of SA.

Special congratulations are given to Mr Bongumusa Mthembu and Anne Ashworth, for their victories in 2018 Race. Special congratulations to Mthembu for winning it three times; and a back to back up and down run.

We hope that this trend will be repeated in 2019 and beyond. We thank the coaches and managers of these athletes, we also place on record the appreciation to the provinces where these athletes come from because we know that they did play a role no matter how little it may be. Anyway never expect to be praised as Provinces when things go well as every other person wants to take credit from the situation.

A special thank you is also given to the KZNA and CMA Board and volunteers, government and other entities for making the race a huge success.

22. RUSSIAN ATHLETES

The Russian Athletics Federation is suspended by IAAF. The only athletes who are eligible to run are those that have gained the Neutral Athletes status.

Any person who denies this do not understand the decision taken by the IAAF Council and Congress in 2015 November, 2016 and 2017 November, as well recently at the IAAF Council, that deals with day to day issues between Congresses.

Any athlete from Russia whether he or she calls herself or himself an amateur or professional without the IAAF Neutral Athlete status is here illegally.

We will keep you informed if the status by IAAF on this changes in the near future. We urge all the provinces and race organizers to deal with the way it has been communicated to you by ASA.

The Technical Committee must be vigilant too in scrutinizing the letters that come from IAU which has not authority to clear an ATHLETE from a suspended Federation.
to run. We are members of the IAAF which is the mother body. There are no other mother body that regulates athletics in the world other IAAF.

For ease of reference, when South Africa was banned by IAAF and IOC, whosoever was carrying a South African Passport was not allowed to compete because the country was banned. ASA has welcomed over the years the Russian athletes and the Twins who dominated the CMA for years because Russian Athletics Federation was a member of IAAF in good standing.

The consequences for allowing athletes from Russian Athletics Federation will be severe for ASA and its members.

23. ASA STANDING COMMITTEES

We have received nominations for the ASA Committees from member provinces. The ACEO is working on finalizing the Standing Committees.

We were briefed by the ACEO, and other staff responsible for the various committee, that people with low expertise and low qualified were nominated.

This is a serious indictment for all of us to simply have people who do not even have the bare minimum requirements in terms of qualifications to be nominated to serve at national level.

The same people will have to serve in Southern Region and Africa as well as the World. ASA have the statistics of the people in all disciplines that are active and working at all levels and disciplines of Athletics.

At the next ASA Council the committees will be announced so that they begin to work towards the 2019-2020 season.

We wish to thank all those provinces that submitted the quality of names as required and encourage others if they wish to send the names. The ACEO will communicate with the members on this soonest.

24. ASA DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY/ BLUEPRINT

The ASA Board has endorsed the first draft of the Development Strategy/ Blueprint which is going to be our working document.

We invite all of you to make input and suggestions on the document and submit to the ACEO. The date for submission of inputs will be communicated to your offices sooner than later by the ACEO.

25. DISPUTES IN THE PROVINCES

ASA Board is working in resolving the disputes that are there at provincial level. We are going to report on some of the issues that the ASA Council gave a mandate to deal with at the ASA Council meeting in 2017.
That will be done at the ASA Council Meeting in October 2018

26. GOVERNMENT DBE AND SRSA

There is a new MOU that was signed by the two Ministers to cooperate in delivering School sport in this country.

Please familiarize yourself with it as it is intended to unlock the problems that started in 2004 when USSASA was dismantled.

We are also keen to see how it will be rolled out at all levels. We made our own contributions as ASA during the consultative process.

27. DEMARCATIONS OF ASA PROVINCES

We have had a lot of calls from Eastern Cape, North West, Western Cape, and Gauteng political provinces.

These came from government officials and Sports Confederation calling ASA to cut down 17 provinces to 9. Their argument is very interesting but not supported by resources as required.

ASA has a responsibility to demarcate its structure so that they work and deliver athletics to the furthest corners of our country. The debate has been there for a number years since the introduction of 52 districts by government.

We are not rushing to change our structures, please convey this message to whosoever is pressuring you to do so. Also go further and ask for the operational budget that will sustain or make your structures work better and effectively if not efficiently than now.

What the ASA Board has resolved is simple that there are up to three ASA provinces within a political province. The Presidents of these ASA Provinces will constitute a three persons committee to work with government rather than the government talking to the three entities.

What will be the interesting is how the resources are going to be allocated and how much will it be? Please also go and prepare a structure programme where you will have interprovincial competitions and training programmes for coaches and officials as well administrators funded by government.

Please also request the office space to be provided by government, including water and light, security etc. If these basic things can be achieved we can begin to look at other issues. ASA has 17 provinces and will only be changed by ASA Council. Thank you.

28. PREPARATION FOR THE 2019 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are working toward finalizing our plans for the 2019 IAAF World Championships in Doha. More details will be share with you at the ASA General Council Meeting.
29. PREPARATION FOR THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

It is almost two years before the staging of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Our athletes are already in motion and building for the 2020 Olympics. All what we need to do is to structure our calendar to allow our athletes to peak at a right time for the Olympics.

We urge all the provinces to create opportunities for the athletes at home so that they do not have to travel to other continents to prepare and race. The more the athletes spend time with their home coaches the better they perform at major international competition.

30. AU SPORT COUNCIL REGION 5 SPORTS AWARDS

We wish to congratulate the two athletes for winning the awards hosted by the AU in Johannesburg recently.

30.1. Caster Semenya Sportswoman of the Year
30.2. Luvo Manyonga Sportsman of the Year

31. IN CONCLUSION

Thank you to all of your in your respective capacities for taking your precious time to come and participate at the ASA meetings starting from yesterday and today.

ASA will never be the same again with you playing your roles. Go back home to spread the same message of hope and peace to the constituencies in order to grow athletics to the provinces and districts, schools and clubs.

We thank you for your contributions and criticisms which will make ASA a better organization.

We want to thank the ACEO, ASA Staff for all the preparations that resulted in having this AGM a huge success.

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