

Executive Board meeting

Krakow (Poland)-October 19/22/ 2011

Report of the Continental President (Africa)

1- All African Games (AAG)

The AAG started on Sept. 3 and ended on Sept.18. They took place in Maputo in Mozambique.

Chess happily was among the 20 Sport arts that were competed among 53 African Nations.

(the next AAG will take place in Congo-Brazzaville, no Chess Fede)

1-1- Overall conditions that surrounded Chess Competitions.

Nothing worked as expected on the basis of the decisions taken and the regulation adopted during the many meetings that took place long before the start of the Games between Coja, the Organiser, representative of the State of Mozambique, the different Mozambique Sport Federations and the African Confederations.

As many other Sports, Chess suffered many shortcomings such as

- our e-mails stayed unanswered
- the venue was not ready (tables not conform to the standart, the light unsuitable)
- quasi absence of coordination work between Coja and the national Federation. Thus the Continent was not supplied with information regarding the state of the preparations of the games.
- tickets were not sent to Officials and Arbiters. Those of us who went to Mozambique had to buy their own ticket and hope for reimbursement.
- accreditation which should have been made long before the start of the Games had to be arranged upon arrival.
- because of all these problems, the Representative of Fide, Mr Lewis Ncube, a member of the Continental Board, Mr hesham Elgendy, 4 appointed Arbiters could not make it to Maputo.
- the Chief Arbiter had to make on the spot decisions concerning appointment of new arbiters. We were lucky that some delegations had arbiters among themselves and who friendly accepted to officiate

- we had to fight a true struggle to get tickets reimbursed and stipend to be paid, but we were not able to get reimbursement of the tickets of Mr Sani Mohammed, Zonal President and Mr Eugene Akhiwu, IA.

- without the devotion and efforts dedicated by Mr Sani mohammed, President of Zone 4.2, Mr Tshepo Sitali, President of Zone 4.3, the Chief Arbiter , Mr Gunther Van der Berg and Eugene Akhiwu, IA, Chess Competitions would not have taken place. With a determined spirit and with the cooperation and understanding of all the teams present, they were able to make sure Chess is part of the AAG.

- Special mention of gratitude should be made to Mr Gunther Van der Berg and MrTshepo Sitali regarding the true struggle they fought against all the odds they were confronted with throughout the whole duration of the competitions. In spite of all the difficulties and obstacles they repeatedly experienced, both of them did not spare their time and efforts for the benefit the Chess Games.

1.2- Participation

14 teams competed in the Open section. They were:

	Egypt	EGY
	South Africa	RSA
	Algeria	ALG
	Angola	ANG
	Nigeria	NGR
	Botswana	BOT
	Namibia	NAM
	Ethiopia	ETH
	Kenya	KEN
	Zimbabwe	ZIM
	Ghana	GHA
	Madagascar	MAD
	Mozambique	MOZ
	Zambia	ZAM

The following 8 Teams competed in the Women Section

	Egypt	EGY
	South Africa	RSA
	Algeria	ALG
	Angola	ANG
	Nigeria	NGR
	Botswana	BOT
	Kenya	KEN
	Mozambique	MOZ

On the whole, participation was satisfactory as we had more teams competing than during the AAG in Nigeria (2003) and in Algeria (2007). However, it is not understandable that Federations neighbor to Mozambique did not participate.

1.3 Results

In both sections, the medals were spread among many Federations. In the open section, 8 teams, out of 14 won medals whereas, in the Women section, it was 6 teams out of 8. This means the level of Chess is improving throughout Africa. Egypt is still the dominant Federation with Algeria and South Africa as challengers and Angola, Nigeria, Botswana and Zambia improving significantly.

1.4- Next AAG

During its General Assembly meeting in Maputo, The Supreme Council of Sports in Africa (SCSA) decided to organize the next AAG (2015) in Congo- Brazzaville. In this country, there is no Chess Federation affiliated to Fide which means that as AAG Organizer, Congo might be not interested in having Chess as part of the Games. To avoid this and make sure it will not be the case, we should start right now to invest all our efforts in order to help create a Congolese Chess federation and get it affiliated to Fide.

2- 2011, Year of Africa

Only 2 months are left to the end of 2011. Yet nothing differs 2011 from the previous years: no special projects adopted and carried out and which could describe 2011 as a Special Year for Africa. In Khanty-Mansyisk during the 2010 Olympiads, 2011 has been expected by the African Federations to be a starting point for popularizing and developing Chess in the Continent. Unfortunately, the expectations and the hope have faded out.