

# **THE ANNUAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE DOMINICA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD 2014**

## **WHERE THE DOC WAS AND WHERE IT HOPED TO BE**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the quadrennial 2013 – 2016 the Dominica Olympic Committee focused on Good Governance and Management, Strategic Positioning and Branding or Re-Branding in order to fulfill its mission and vision and deliver on its goals and aspirations now and in the future. This report defines the actions undertaken and projections made to attain the objectives that were successfully accomplished within the past year 2014.

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Almost a year and two months ago, the working plans of the Dominica Olympic Committee were determined by the Executive Committee fortified with a new constitution endorsed by the General Assembly and ratified by the International Olympic Committee [IOC].

The DOC adopted then some important themes to implement including Good Governance and Management, Developmental Framework for athletes, Strategic Planning, Branding of its Movement and Establishing a Multi-Discipline Sport facility. These themes in view of its work plans defined where DOC was and more importantly where this organization wanted to be now and in the future. The time and effort spent on each theme over the past year 2014 depended on the magnitude and complexity demanded. Essentially DOC remained relevant with regards to sport and sport development in Dominica.

The Executive prepared an amended version of the constitution and following a review and critique by the General Assembly the new constitution was approved by the IOC and took effect immediately in 2014. That newly ratified constitution heralded a fresh and improved stage in our organization's work. The changes made to the constitution mimicked closely the IOC Agenda 2020 a document that contained 40 reforms that will impact the Olympic Movement's work now and in the future. DOC was committed those reforms that influenced immensely its operations especially those involving Good Governance and Management.

An Extract of the Olympic and Sport Movement Congress Recommendation 41 reads: *"All members of the Olympic Movement should adopt, as their minimum standard, the Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic Movement, as proposed by the IOC."*

The tenets of Good Governance include:

1. Vision, Mission and Strategy
2. Structures, Regulations and Democratic Process
3. Highest Level of Competence, Integrity and Ethical Standards
4. Accountability, Transparency and Control
5. Solidarity and Development
6. Athletes Involvement, Participation and Care
7. Harmonious Relations with Governments while preserving Autonomy.

In that light, the DOC had a revamped vision to secure a medal or medals at an Olympic Games preferably Rio 2016 and its overall goal was to bring honour and recognition to Dominica as a Nation. The organization had started a mission to promote Olympism and protect the independence of the Olympic Movement, represent the International Olympic Committee and live the principles and values of the Olympic Movement. In addition develop and protect athletes and their rights as well as promote



women in sport, Anti-Doping, fair play, sport for all, the environment, culture, non-discrimination and education.

The strategies adopted by the Executive fell into three major priorities as follows: (1) to deliver supporting and impactful programmes from the Olympic Solidarity [OS] and Pan-American Sport Organization [PASO] and maximize its efficiency and effectiveness in securing resources for implementing those programmes. The securing of scholarships for athletes who potentially can qualify for PANAM 2015 in Toronto and Rio 2016 Olympic Games, training of coaches and increased participation of young athletes in Games regionally and internationally became pivotal in DOC's work plans. Commendably, DOC formulated plans to re-invigorate an Athletes Commission not only to meet its obligations but in order that athletes exercise their rights and protect their identities.

Within the Strategic Planning priority number (2) involved attracting and building a public, private social partnership that widely benefit athletes, sport and all Dominican communities. DOC began by implementing a constitutional alignment to establish National Colours for all sport representations. National Colours were derived from the National Flag, a maximum of three prominent colours are recommended by international sport bodies to constitute national colours for uniforms used in competition. DOC promoted Forest Green (60%), Black (30%) and Red (10%) in those respective distributions as dominant colours on our National Flag. The ultimate design of the uniform used by a particular sport body was solely determined by that National Associations, however, all Olympic Sport Association should conform to that agreed colour scheme and distributions. Too often Dominica has been represented with several unidentifiable colours that did not differentiate us with a recognizable brand as a nation.

Through that innovative, bold and relevant approach to an identity, DOC aimed to generate value, impact and positioned the sport fraternity to gain global recognition of its athletes and the country Dominica.

The third Strategic Priority number (3) was aimed to instill in our youth active, authentic and sincere personality in the DOC Brand. The Executive recognized the need to empower young athletes uphold sound character that is honest, selfless, dedicated, hardworking, committed and ethical. Young people were being called upon to do the right things and get serious in sport development.

The intense work output by the DOC's Executive throughout 2014 laid the foundation to strengthen its management in all aspects and improved DOC's operational capacity for achieving its goals and aspirations then and in the future.

A detailed report of the actions and results achieved during 2014 is provided later in this document regarding the sound management with the accurate numbers, times and dates as well as the financial conditions of the DOC. It should be highlighted that some significant achievements were attained by our elite athletes during 2014. Initiatives have begun to implement Long Term Athlete Development for the future. Two athletes excelled in 2014, David Registe, in Long Jump secured Gold in the PASO Festival and the same at the CAC Games both held in Mexico. Whereas Yordanys Duranona Garcia captured Gold in Triple Jump at the PASO Festival and Bronze for the CAC Games. These remarkable feats allowed them to qualify automatically for the PANAM Games Toronto 2015. They need to be given the highest accolade for their efforts. Hopefully these athletes may be our heroes at the Olympic Games, Rio 2016 and fulfill our vision to medal at an Olympic Games. Other athletes including Thea

Lafond, Dillon Simon, Mitchel Davis, Brendan Williams, Valerian Spicer, Shanee Angol, Erison Hurtault and Bavon Sylvain in some way distinguished themselves in 2014 and were ably supported by the DOC and their respective National Associations.

The preliminary stage to establish a National Multi-Discipline Sport facility at Warner Flats is sacrosanct and extremely important to sport development in Dominica. DOC had written to Government through the Ministry of Sport [Youth, Culture and Constituency Empowerment] to secure a long lease on a portion of land in the vicinity of Warner and Jimmit villages. DOC had favourable engagements with Ministries and Departments including Land and Surveys, Planning as well as the Dominica Social Security, a Statutory Board, to cooperate and partner in delivering that land space for development of the facility. When the proposed land site is leased the Executive is expected to work initially with its affiliates Dominica Amateur Athletic Association and Dominica Football Association to engage their respective International Federations to help fund the building of a 400metre Mundo synthetic track enclosing an international standard football field.

Undoubtedly, IOC will be the main funding stakeholder and partner, however, before the IOC is approached the land has to be officially handed over to the DOC, a design, quantity survey along with a detailed budget should be prepared. Through the President of the DOC the International Olympic Committee and in particular Olympic Solidarity were made aware of the DOC's intentions.

Ultimately, an independent Board of qualified professionals with a variety of expertise and competencies will be constituted to manage that project. Just as members of the Executive were expected to be chosen on the basis of their ability, competence, quality, leadership capacity, integrity and experience, the use of external expertise to manage that project is imperative for transparency and risk management. The Olympic Solidarity had applauded that approach. With respect to the implementation, that independent Board with the appropriate terms of reference will report to the DOC Executive on the progress to completion of the project. DOC should maintain a sound partnership with Government in executing that proposed development of such an important and much needed sport facility.

It is significant to note DOC invested in Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees' CBI [CANOC Broadcasting Inc.] company initiative by purchasing shares amounting to USD 5000.00 for the IOC's rights to broadcast the Rio 2016 Games through a direct feed in so doing DOC stands to achieve royalties and dividends from that lucrative business venture. CANOC owns 51% of the shares and the NOCs have 49% of the shares in CBI. Therefore, DOC should be in a sounder financial position post-August 2016 following the proceeds gained from Rio 2016 coverage. More importantly, our Dominican athletes will be seen LIVE on local TV when competing.

In fulfilment of the DOC Executive Committee's agreement with the IOC and Government, the Executive intends to deliver on its promise to attain that developmental goal before the end of the quadrennial for the benefit of all involved in sport.

Many thanks.

Felix A. Wilson

President