



2016

SANPO Presidential Report



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SANPO President
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SANPO PRESIDENTIAL REPORT - 2015

When we look upon the events of our *lives*, in their rise and fall, in their ripening and withering and in their successes and failures, we cannot but feel embraced by their unpredictability. They are a circle of circumstances; of events that determine our destiny. From such a realization we become aware of an unseen or unexpected fate. My election to the position of the president of SANPO was definitely one of those cases. If you would have told me a year ago I'd be in this position I would have laughed.

But here I am, humbled by the responsibility, honored by your presence and excited by the challenges. I feel with all my heart that SANPO is a sports body destined to make its mark not only on the face of South Africa, but in Africa and the international community.

So today, I stand before you as your President, a year in the making. And what a year it's been! I took up this position with mixed emotions - if not some trepidation - and could not help but remember the words of the great Charles Dickens, who so aptly wrote...'*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times*'.

This roller coaster has reflected something of our ride for this past year at SANPO. There were things that had to be done for the general - and not individual - good. There was transformation that had to be effected to bring us into line. Change, as we all know, has never been easy.

However, I do believe that through the hard work of my committee's we have witnessed a rebirth in SANPO that has transcended so much. Our sport - something we all love - surely has to embrace the principles of truth, honour, dignity and, above all, fair play.

Despite the challenging historical conditions I've alluded to, it is the spirit of our members, your spirit that has continued to charter a course that places *pigeons first* – a sentiment I hold close to my heart, and a sentiment that I know is close to yours.

There have been challenges, yes, but I've had a fulfilling year where a sense of excitement and optimism has overshadowed everything else. The excitement has been seeing what there is to be done. The optimism has been witnessing that we can do it. My confidence has been fired by the hard work, the incredible commitment and the time put in by my executive committee. Their devotion, their dedication and their determination to achieve the best for SANPO must be applauded. Well done! Undoubtedly, this achievement has been aided and abetted by the selfless support and contributions made by you, our honorable members too.

I would like to mention some of the year's highlights....

After arriving from the USA where I represented SA to judge at the US national fancy pigeon show in California, My course was set to resolve some issues which needed my attention, the first being to have a meeting with the NSPCA, here I would like to thank Dr Ockert Botha, Attorney Ahmad Cachalia and Willem Van Wyk who attend this meeting with me and I would say what a successful meeting it was. I think we understand each other much better.

The next important meeting was with the Dept of Environmental Affairs in Cape Town, my thanks once again go out to Dr Botha, Prof Christo De Conning and Willem Van Wyk who attended these meetings with me. These two meetings were of vital importance to clear the air of misconceptions of pigeon racing and fancy pigeon showing. And what a success it was. We were task to draft a new addendum to the law which was passed in 2004 on the racing pigeon sport in South Africa. So that it can be Government gazetted. Given only 25 days to achieve this I can happily tell you all we achieved it yes gentleman we did, that's the commitment we have amongst our board members of SANPO. A team so committed I can happily give you the assurance that any task will be executed.

The adminsitartion was re-arranged, and various changes transpired on various levels where new elected members and appointed persoanel joined SANPO. The road was now paved to

look at other important needs of you the fancier the member of SANPO, who have placed their trust in us to keep this boat on the correct path and into calmer waters.

I attended the SASCOC Presidential meetings with the sole intention of getting them to hand us a helping hand. After numerous personnel talks with SASCOC President Mr Gideon Sam and Board Member Mr Muhammad, We were finally given the opportunity to present our case, Here I will like to thank Retief Uys and Willem Van Wyk for making time available to meet up with Mr Raymond Hack the Attorney of SASCOC. One of many meetings that have taken place with many more to follow. If I must elaborate more on these meetings we will probably have to sit here for another six or more hours, In Short. We have now been given the mandate to govern ourselves and are protected within the law of South Africa.

Within keeping our members at heart, our Clock committee led by the Chairman Mr Shane Gerber, is doing ground breaking work and opening up an area of the sport which needs our urgent attention, the opening of CAN's and the cost of ID and electronic rings. He was also hard at work on the Constitution, as part of our mandate as acquired in March 2015. He and the Constitutional Committee did an outstanding job in consolidating the past six years amendments and also completed a final document of the constitution for the November AGM. This was long overdue due to various interpretation issues, and it was also provided to SASCOC for input and possible alignments. These Committee's are driving crucial aspects for our Sport's future. Here too if I'm going to elaborate too much it will take hours. But I can assure you under our watch we will do whatever is necessary to make the playing field level, because that's part of the mandate we accepted from SASCOC.

But in accepting this mandate we at SANPO have to transform according to the transformation charter as set out by the Dept of Sport and in line with the SASCOC's Presidential agreement of 2012. Here we need to give thanks to Prof de Coning who has initiated this process and developed a SPORT CODE of CONDUCT as a pro-forma and provided it to SANPO. This draft is a document which eventually will need to be adopted for all Provinces as SANPO align to the SASCOC agreement. In this association with SASCOC, lie

many advantages, one being access to funding that we so dearly need to promote this great sport of pigeons, another the Legal frameworks and more even the possibility of advertisement and media coverage for our Sport. An example is right here, the National Fancy Pigeon Association, we receive funding every year. Through the NFPA and our association with the President of SASCOC, Mr. Gideon Sam we have developed a sound relationship and have opened the door to lotto funding, as SANPO could apply for lotto funding for the first time since SANPO's inception. Here I need to thank Retief Uys as the prime driver, supported by Willem Van Wyk for all the hard work and dedication to get quotes to complete the extensive application form and meeting the deadline of 30 November 2015. In a continuation of the SASCOC mandate, we have to keep our good standing, and to ensure that, we have to ensure transparency on our administration and adherence to specific principles as prescribed by SASCOC and the law. Due to this the Financial committee had to develop a Financial policy, Tenders and a different mode of managing the Financials. Therefore I am happy to report that most if not all of the obstacles has also been cleared and that the firm intention is that the SANPO's financial status will now be provided on a monthly basis.

On a different platform, I was privileged to have had several discussions with the SAMDPR, after Retief initiated a process of discussion and transparency. The goodwill we have acquired from the SAMDPR was staggering and resulted in the provision of three sales to SANPO's benefit and various other agreements which will benefit the Sport in future.

To my Vice President George Le Roux what a great help you've been this past year, in other words a shoulder to cry on.

Johan Pretorius our Secretary, you've been my knight in shining armour, no task was for you impossible, you've made this past year a great pleasure.

To Janet Dorling and Gerhard Shack we've been together for a short while but you both have the aptitude to climb this mountain with us.



To the rest of our Board members, the Chairman's of all the committees, Shane Gerber, Pedrie v.d. Merwe, Des Humpel, Bossie Boshof, Willem Van Wyk, Faunty Gilmer, Dr Ockert Botha and all the Board Members that contribute to the Sport in the various ways and support the Sport and SANPO. **Thank you all.**

I would like to congratulate all the men and women who have received merit awards this year, well done and thank you all. Starting with the Top Racing Pigeon Fanciers, Short distance race winners, Middle distance winners, Long Distance winners and the Overall winners, **Congratulations.** You all deserve a round of applause for your achievements.

I believe the success we enjoy at SANPO lies in our diversity. Isn't the saying, "diversity is strength" a most powerful one?

I believe it is the wide range of human potentialities that each individual member of SANPO brings to our sport that makes it the joy it is. Diversity is the spice of life; diversity is what represents the collective achievements of us all. It is said that tolerance and understanding are what complement diversity. These qualities are vital for our progress. So let us supplement these principles with faith; let us live life and enjoy this great sport of pigeon's.

Let us all give SANPO the opportunity to be the success it deserves to be.

I thank you all and God Bless.

Fadiel Hendricks.

SANPO PRESIDENT
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