



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ÉCHECS

Recognized by the International Olympic Committee

Continental President for Africa

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REPORT OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL PRESIDENT TO THE 2020 FIDE ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (DECEMBER 6, 2020)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report to the 2020 Online General Assembly of the World Chess Federation (FIDE) covers a review of the events and operations of the African Chess Confederation during the calendar year of 2020.

Whilst the calendar of 2020 was decimated by the global Covid-19 budget, the lessons learnt from this unfortunate development will serve to build a new phase in the popularization of our royal game across the board for the future.

The African Continental leadership suffered a blow with the demise of the FIDE Zone 4.3 President, Colonel Michel Nguele Viang.

Colonel Viang, who was also the President of the Cameroonian Chess Federation, died on June 17, 2020.

His valued contribution to the chess development process in Africa is genuinely appreciated.

2. TOURNAMENTS

i. 2020 ZONE 4.2 INDIVIDUAL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2020 Zone 4.2 Individual Chess Championships, were held in the Sierra Leone Capital, Freetown from **March 14th, 2020** (arrival) to **March 22nd, 2020** (departure).

A total number of 30 players from five Federations were grouped in the Open Section, which was merged with the Women's Section on account of only a handful of female entries.

The event also included Rapid and Blitz events.

The Classic Time Control event was won by Ajibola Oranrewaju of Nigeria with a score of 8.5/9

The Rapid Time Control event was also won by Ajibola Oranrewaju of Nigeria with a score of 6.5/7

To cap a remarkable tournament performance, Ajibola Oranrewaju also won the Blitz Time Control event with a perfect score of 9/9

The summarized medal positions were as follows:

Classic Time Control: Gold Medal- Ajibola Oranrewaju (NGR) 8.5/9
 Silver Medal- IM Adu Oladapo (NGR) 7.5/9
 Bronze Medal- FM Oragwu Chukwunonso (NGR) 7.0/9

Rapid Time Control: Gold Medal- Ajibola Oranrewaju (NGR) 6.5/7
 Silver Medal- FM Barcon Harmon (LBR) 6.0/7
 Bronze Medal- Thomas Saah (LBR) 5.0/7

Blitz Time Control: Gold Medal- Ajibola Oranrewaju (NGR) 9/9
 Silver Medal- FM Oragwu Chukwunonso (NGR) 7.0/9
 Bronze Medal- FM Barcon Harmon (LBR) 7.0/9

The onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic meant that the organisers had to rush through the final rounds of the event.

- ii. All the other Zonal and Continental over the board events had to be cancelled when the global Covid-19 pandemic escalated in most areas of the African Continent.

It is anticipated that some replacement events, with adjusted conditions, may take place online before the end of the year.

3. CONTINENTAL COMMISSIONS

In the last quarter of the year, the establishment of the following Continental Commissions was finalised with the indicated leadership:

i. ACC Arbiters Commission

Chairman: IA Stephen Kisuze (Uganda)

Secretary: IA Samir Zerdali (Algeria)

ii. ACC Chess in Education Commission

Chairman: Mothokomedi Thabano (Botswana)

Secretary: Jeffrey Kanguma (Zambia)

iii. ACC Planning and Development Commission

Chairman: Austin Apemiye (Nigeria)

Secretary: Fungirayiini Chiweshe Mushananga (Zimbabwe)

iv. ACC Social and Disabled Commission

Chairperson: Dr. Lamia Mlayeh (Tunisia)

Secretary: Christiana Naa Merley Ashley (Ghana)

v. ACC Trainers Commission

Chairman: GM Ahmed Adly (Egypt)

Secretary: Charles Eichab (Namibia)

vi. ACC Events and Publicity Commission

Chairman: Dr. Collen Tongowona (Zimbabwe)

Secretary: IA Peter Duke Michieka King'oina (Kenya)

vii. ACC Commission for Women in Chess

Chairperson: Susan Namangale (Malawi)

Secretary: Mario Prosper Kpan (Cote d'Ivoire)

viii. ACC Players' Commission

Chairman: IM Odion Aikhoje (Nigeria)

Secretary: WFM Ivy Amoko (Uganda)

ix. ACC Technical and Online Commission

Chairman: IA Hassan Khaled (Egypt)

Secretary: Ayokanmi Ajayi (Nigeria)

Each of the Commissions is made up of ten members drawn from all the Five Zones of the African Continent

The Commissions have each been provided with Terms of Reference under which they will operate.

The Term of Office for all the Commission Members is Four Years, in synchrony with the FIDE Commissions.

4. CONCLUSION

The advent of the global Covid-19 pandemic has brought about many challenges to the organisation of chess activities in Africa.

Whilst the increased opportunities of online chess activities in the form of tournaments, seminars, meetings and discussion platforms have arisen, the immediate challenge to many African players, organisers and administrators is the access to the required technology; both in terms of affordability and availability.

The African Chess Confederation is working on various fronts to mitigate these challenges to enable the African chess community adjust to the new norms.

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