

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Present:

Executive Board of PGC

Mr Vidhya Lakhan, President (Chairman)
Mr Marcus Stephen, Vice President – Sport
Mr Laurent Cassier, Vice President – Marketing
Ms Tamzin Wardley, Vice President – Audit & Finance
Mr Ryan Pini, Athletes' Representative
Mr Andrew Minogue, Chief Executive Officer

Past Presidents of PGC

Mr Roger Kaddour (Nouvelle Calédonie)
Mr Sir John Dawanincura, (President, Papua New Guinea PGA)
Mr Ricardo Blas, (President, Guam PGA; Secretary-General, ONOC)

Pacific Games Associations (PGAs)

Mr Etisone Imo, President, American Samoa
Mr Hugh Graham, President, Cook Islands
Mr Joseph Rodan, President, Fiji
Ms Lorraine Mar, Secretary-General, Fiji
Mr Joey Miranda III, Chef de Mission, Guam
Ms Josephine Reiher, Vice President, Kiribati
Ms Tebataua Ateriina Karotu, Chef de Mission, Kiribati
Mr Edison Mathusala, Delegate, Marshall Islands
Mr Hansome Adumur, Chef de Mission, Nauru
Ms Leona Cain, General Team Manager, Nauru
Mr Charles Cali, President, Nouvelle Calédonie
Mr Christophe Dabin, Secretary-General, Nouvelle Calédonie
Mr Michel Quintin, Directeur, Nouvelle Calédonie
Mr Maru Talagi, President, Niue
Ms Christine Ioane, Secretary-General, Niue
Mr Mal Tarrant, President, Norfolk Island
Mr Michael A. White, President, Northern Mariana Islands
Ms Baklai Temengil, Secretary-General, Palau
Mr Alonz Moses, Chef de Mission, Palau
Ms Emma Waiwai, Chef de Mission, Papua New Guinea
Mr Patrick Fepuleai, President, Samoa
Mr Talalelei Pauga, Delegate, Samoa
Mr Martin Rara, President, Solomon Islands
Ms Melinda Avosa, Secretary-General, Solomon Islands
Mr 'Amanaki Fakakovikaetau, Chef de Mission, Tonga
Mr Iakopo Molotii, President, Tuvalu
Mr Antoine Boudier, President, Vanuatu
Mr Cyrille Mainguy, Secretary-General, Vanuatu
Mr Henry Tavoia, Chef de Mission, Vanuatu

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Mr Michel Brial, Treasurer, Wallis et Futuna
Mr Valentino Polelei, Chef de Mission, Wallis et Futuna
Mr Lemisio Liogi Mafutuna, General Team Manager, Wallis et Futuna

Apologies: Federated States of Micronesia

PGAs Absent: Tahiti Nui, Tokelau

Observers: **Government of Vanuatu**
The Hon. Seule Simeon, Minister of Youth & Sports Development

Government of Solomon Islands

Mr Gabriel Suri, Chairman, National Sports Council
Mr Selwyn Kole, Representative, Prime Minister's Office
Ms Hezilyn Maui, Ministry of Home Affairs

Oceania National Olympic Committees Representatives

Mr Dennis Miller
Mr Matai Akauola
Ms Karo Lelai
Ms Natanya Potoi-Ulia

Pacific Games Organising Committees

Mr Mark Stafford, Chairman, Vanuatu 2017
Ms Mary Mahuk, Vanuatu 2017

Invited National Olympic Committees

Ms Helen Brownlee, Vice President, Australian Olympic Committee

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee

Melissa Price, Manager CGA Relations

International Federations

Ms Yvonne Mullins, Oceania Athletics Association
Mr Christian Holtz, Oceania Table Tennis Federation

Observers

Mr Ben Howard, Pacific Sports Partnerships

Interpreters

Ms Margaret Russet

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

1. CALL TO ORDER

The President of the Pacific Games Council, Mr Vidhya Lakhan (Chair of the meeting), called the meeting to order at 9.00am on Sunday 10 December and invited Mr Maru Talagi (President, Niue PGA) to lead the General Assembly in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL AND APOLOGIES

Andrew Minogue (Chief Executive Officer) called the roll and 19 of the 22 Pacific Games Associations (PGAs) were recorded as present. Tahiti and Tokelau were absent from the meeting, whilst Federated States of Micronesia were recorded as an apology.

The Chairman announced that with 21 PGAs present, the meeting had obtained the necessary quorum as per Article 13.4 of the Charter. He called for any individual apologies to be recorded.

Apologies were received from Mr Robert Graham (Cook Islands), Mr Terry Sasser (Marshall Islands), Ms Auvita Rapilla (Papua New Guinea) and Lord Tevita Tupou and Siosifa Takitoa Taumoepeau (Tonga).

3. OFFICIAL OPENING ADDRESSES

The Chairman formally welcomed the 19 PGAs to the meeting, as well as three former Presidents of the Council, Mr Roger Kaddour, Sir John Dawanincura and Mr Ricardo Blas. He also congratulated Baklai Temengil for her elevation to the IOC, as Auvita Rapilla (Papua New Guinea) in her absence.

The Chairman also welcomed Mr Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) in his capacity as Regional Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Federation; Ms Helen Brownlee, Vice President of the Australian Olympic Committee; representatives of the Oceania Federations, Ms Yvonne Mullins (Athletics) and Mr Christian Holtz (Table Tennis); and Mr Antoine Boudier (President) and Mr Cyrille Mainguy (Secretary-General) from the host PGA of Vanuatu.

The Chairman welcomed all of the delegates to beautiful Vanuatu. He said after facing many stumbling blocks and barriers, they had now all been overcome and the 10th Pacific Mini Games were taking place in excellent venues and in a safe and comfortable environment for the athletes. He thanked the people and the Government of Vanuatu, the Vanuatu PGA, the VAN2017 Games Organising Committee and the City of Port Vila for their support and for making the Games possible.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chairman said the athletes so far had put on some world class performances with Pacific Games and even Commonwealth records broken. Off the field of play there was also never a dull moment with the Council having endured political interference and breaches of contract by some Governments in the region. As sportspeople though, the Council membership would rise above this as it always had in the past. He thanked the delegates for being true partners in delivering the Council's objectives of solidifying the status of the Pacific Games as the region's premier multi-sport event.

The Chairman said that 2017 was the year to ignite the spirit within and he encouraged all delegates to keep working hard to bring honour and glory to sport in the Pacific and to enjoy the remainder of the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games.

The Chairman then called upon Mr Antoine Boudier, President of the host PGA, to give his welcome address.

Antoine Boudier (Vanuatu) welcomed all of the delegates on behalf of the Vanuatu PGA. He thanked them for coming to Vanuatu with their delegations and for supporting the 10th Pacific Mini Games with quality athletes who were delivering strong competitions.

Antoine Boudier said the journey had been difficult and he paid tribute to the Chairman for his unswerving support along the way. He thanked the Chairman of the VAN2017 Games Organising Committee, Mr Mark Stafford, for leading a dedicated group of staff and volunteers who had worked long hours to deliver the Games. He congratulated all of the PGAs on their medals and achievements thus far and wished them a successful concluding week of competition.

The Chairman thanked Antoine Boudier for his remarks and then asked delegates to welcome the Hon. Seule Simeon, Minister for Youth and Sports Development.

The Honorable Minister thanked the Chairman and all of the PGAs for bringing their athletes to Vanuatu and, as the Chairman of the Pacific Mini Games Authority, he issued them a warm welcome to Port Vila. He thanked delegates for their role in the 5th Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting which had advanced the dialogue on the development of sports policy in the region which was vital to the development of youth and the health, education and economic sectors. He said he hoped the delegates enjoyed the opening Ceremony and he wished them all the best for the second week of the Games.

The Chairman thanked the Minister for his remarks and thanked him personally as well as the Prime Minister and the Government of Vanuatu for hosting the 10th Pacific Mini Games. Their support had been invaluable. He reported that he had heard nothing but positive comments on the Games and on the facilities, and that the athletes were in a safe and comfortable environment.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chairman said the Pacific Games Council was delighted that the Sports Ministers of the Pacific had agreed to take their agenda forward and he thanked Fiji for offering to host the next meeting in March 2018. He said the Pacific Games Council would be watching to ensure the agenda for developing sports policies in the region and in each country moved forward, and he offered to assist in any way possible.

4. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PORT MORESBY, 12 JULY 2015

The Chairman advised that the minutes of the 10-11 May 2016 General Assembly were circulated electronically several times in advance of the meeting and that hard copies had also been made available to the meeting.

The Chairman asked that the minutes be taken as read, which was approved on a motion from Vanuatu and seconded by Cook Islands.

The Chairman asked whether there were any amendments to the minutes required, and there being none forthcoming, he asked that the minutes be approved as a true record of the meeting. It was moved by Papua New Guinea, seconded by Vanuatu, and approved by the meeting as a true record of the 2016 General Assembly.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The Chairman asked the delegates if there was any business arising from the minutes they wished to raise.

Michael A. White (Northern Mariana Islands) referred to page 32 and expressed his disappointment that the promised invitations for non-NOCs to compete at the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan had not eventuated and that nothing had been done to protect non-NOCs. He said the non-NOCs deserved an explanation.

The Chairman said that his understanding was that the invitation to participate was issued to ONOC, which then submitted a list of NOCs and non-NOCs to the host country, which then made the decision on whom to invite. He then called upon the Secretary-General of ONOC to add any further detail.

Ricardo Blas (ONOC Secretary-General) said it was difficult to explain the decisions taken by the Turkmenistan Government, but that non-NOCs were given an explanation at the time and it was therefore inappropriate to raise the matter on the floor of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly.

The Chairman asked whether there was any other business arising from the minutes.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Sir John Dawanincura (Papua New Guinea) requested that in future meetings, the Chief Executive Officer list any matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman said PGAs were free to raise any matters arising from the minutes and encouraged them to do so.

6. REPORTS

A. Executive Board Report

The Chief Executive Officer presented the Executive Board Report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), which included information on its key activities: the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games; oversight of future Games Organising Committees, including securing Samoa as the host of the 2019 Pacific Games; the 5th Pacific Sports Ministers Meeting; and the preparation of the 2016 audited financial statements.

There were no questions arising from the Executive Board Report, which was then formally accepted by the meeting by acclamation.

B. Sports Committee Report

Marcus Stephen (Vice President – Sport) presented the Sports Committee report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), which had met in Port Vila on 8 December. He thanked the ONOC Secretary-General, Mr Ricardo Blas, for attending the meeting, as well as Executive Director, Mr Dennis Miller, who had been co-opted as a member.

The Vice President – Sport noted that a review of technical officiating at the 2017 Pacific Mini Games had shown deficiencies in some sports but that Athletics, Rugby and Weightlifting had received substantial help from their respective Oceania Federations. More work was required in this area with the other Oceania Federations.

The Vice President – Sport reported that the Sports Committee had been impressed with the trial of youth-aged athletes in the Pacific Mini Games Golf event. Whilst the Pacific Mini Games should retain its name to ensure potential host governments were dissuaded from supporting a “Youth” Games, the Committee supported an expansion in youth events for the 2021 Games to two sports and then one-third of the 2025 program.

The Vice President – Sport also reported on submissions to include Kung Fu Wushu in the Games program, as well as proposals to expand the Sailing and Taekwondo events, but that more evidence of participation was needed before they could be endorsed.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Finally, the Vice President – Sport reported that the Sports Committee and Executive Board had endorsed amendments to the Archery and Weightlifting regulations to bring the events into line with the current International Federations' events list. As per Article 16.2(e) of the Charter, these amendments required General Assembly ratification.

The Chairman thanked the Vice President – Sport for his presentation and called for a vote on the ratification of the amendments to Regulation 5.1 (Archery) and Regulation 5.24 (Weightlifting), which was passed unanimously.

The Chairman noted the deficiencies in technical officiating and asked all PGAs to ensure that technical officials coming from their territories understood that they would not be paid for their work at the Pacific Games. There had been instances at the Games of certain technical officials demanding payment, but the Games Organising Committee was only obliged to accommodate them and provide meals, transport and uniforms.

Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) thanked the Council, the VAN2017 Games Organising Committee, the Vanuatu PGA and Vanuatu Volleyball for all working together to schedule the Commonwealth Games Beach Volleyball qualifier during the Pacific Mini Games. This had avoided a duplicate event elsewhere in the Pacific and had increased participation numbers in the Pacific Mini Games. He congratulated Fiji on qualifying for the Commonwealth Games and said he would try to obtain wildcards from the FIVB for the two runners-up; Solomon Islands (Women) and Papua New Guinea (Men).

With no further questions forthcoming, the Chairman asked the meeting to formally adopt the Sports Committee's report, which it did by acclamation.

C. Marketing Committee Report

Laurent Cassier (Vice President – Marketing) presented the Marketing Committee report (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), which had met on 6 December and discussed the success of the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games marketing program and the brand strengthening that was required following Tonga's withdrawal as the 2019 Games host.

The Vice President – Marketing advised that Northern Mariana Islands and Solomon Islands, as future hosts, had been invited to nominate members of the Committee.

Antoine Boudier (Vanuatu) advised that the Pacific Mini Games Host Broadcast feed was included on the IOC's Olympic Channel, which was taking the Games to the world.

Joseph Rodan (Fiji) asked whether the Council had incurred marketing costs in the Tonga market prior to their withdrawal as Games host.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chief Executive Officer responded that the Council had spent a limited amount of funds on meetings of the Marketing Committee since 2012 to move towards activating the marketing program in Tonga. Beyond that there had been no expenditures incurred in the area of marketing.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Council had engaged a solicitor in Tonga to sue the Tongan Government for breach of contract, and for losses incurred as a result of their unilaterally withdrawing from hosting the 2019 Pacific Games. He said the Tongan PGA was assessing its own losses and that he hoped they would join the legal action.

With no further questions forthcoming, the Chairman asked the meeting to formally adopt the Marketing Committee's report, which it did unanimously by acclamation.

D. Audit & Finance Committee Report

Tamzin Wardley (Vice President – Audit & Finance) presented her report to the meeting (refer attached PowerPoint presentation and the copy of the audited 2016 financial statements distributed prior to the meeting on 24 April 2017). The report acknowledged that these were the second set of financial statements since the Council's incorporation in Cook Islands on 20 January 2015.

With no questions on the audited financial statements, the Chairman asked for a resolution that the 2016 financial statements be adopted by the meeting. Papua New Guinea moved the motion, which was seconded by Guam, and approved unanimously.

The Vice President – Audit & Finance then completed her presentation by reporting on the Executive Board's updated budget review; the Executive Board's recommended increase in the Council's financial reserves from \$740,000 (agreed to in 2016) to \$784,000; and the \$99,000 in Protocol 7 penalty fees yet to be paid by seven (7) PGAs as a result of their sport entry withdrawals from the 2015 Pacific Games.

The Chairman explained to the meeting that a financial reserve had been created in 2014, and added to in each subsequent year, as part of the Council's endeavour to be able to withstand a failed Pacific Games by having four years worth of expenditures in reserve. The Council was not yet in a position of reaching that target, but with the recommended increase to \$784,000 it would be more than 60% of the way there. He said that the experience with Tonga withdrawing as the 2019 Pacific Games host had underscored the need to have this reserve in place.

Sir John Dawanincura (Papua New Guinea) asked for an explanation on the relationship between the reserve and the investments held to maturity as outlined in the financial statements, as well as an explanation on the total equity held by the Council.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Vice President – Audit & Finance referred to page 14, note 4 of the financial statements and explained that the reserve was effectively the \$784,000 in investments held to maturity. Those were the various terms deposits with BSP Bank. Those term deposits plus the more than \$500,000 in cash held in the daily operating bank accounts represented the Council's assets.

The Vice President – Audit & Finance explained that the Council's total equity represented the value of these assets minus the small liabilities held by the Council, which were the outstanding Protocol 7 penalty fees payable by the 7 remaining PGAs to the Port Moresby 2015 Games Organising Committees, plus the \$100,000 compliance bond paid by the Solomon Islands Government for the 2023 Pacific Games.

With no further questions, the Chairman moved that the financial reserves be increased by \$40,000 to \$784,000. The motion was approved unanimously by acclamation.

E. Athletes' Representative Report

Ryan Pini (Athletes' Representative) presented a report of his activities (refer attached PowerPoint presentation), noting his role on the ONOC Athletes' Commission and his work on the PGC Sports Committee and Executive Board over the past year. He congratulated the athletes on their performances thus far in Vanuatu, with many Pacific Games and national records being broken.

The Athletes' Representatives also reported on the feedback received from the ONOC Athletes' Commission forum in April, with a discussion on the benefits and challenges of inclusion of Australian and New Zealand athletes in the Pacific Games, as well as a lack of awareness in some cases that Australian and New Zealand athletes would be involved. Athletes had also reported a lack of awareness of the Council's election process for the Athletes' Representative.

The Athletes' Representative also reported on the Voices of the Athletes (VOA) program, which was in operation throughout the 10th Pacific Mini Games at the Port Vila Convention Centre. He said thus far, 22% of the registered athletes had participated in the VOA program, with a target of reaching 50% by the end of the Games. 64% of participants thus far were male and Palau was the first PGA to reach 100% participation.

Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) said it was incumbent on each PGA to inform their athletes on what developments were taking place in the Pacific Games and the opportunities that were available to them.

Baklai Temengil (Palau) suggested that the Voices of the Athletes booth display information on the next Athletes' Representative election to be held in 2019.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Joseph Rodan (Fiji) said the athletes of the Pacific needed more assistance from Australia and New Zealand to raise their standards. To date, such assistance had not been forthcoming. Competing in Australian or New Zealand national championships, for example, was often too difficult to organise for Pacific athletes, which was not fair given the Pacific Games was opening its doors to their athletes.

The Chairman thanked the Athletes' Representative for his report, which was received by acclamation. He thanked ONOC for including the Athletes' Representative as a member of the ONOC Athletes' Commission. He also noted the opportunity for the Council to fund the participation of non-NOC representatives to the ONOC Athletes' Commission Forum provided they represented a duly formed Athletes' Commission in their own territory.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 10.50am for a group photo and morning tea.

7. ORGANISING COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

A. Vanuatu 2017

At the resumption of the meeting at 11.15am, Mr Mark Stafford, Chairman of the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games Organising Committee, was asked to present a report.

Mark Stafford reflected on the long period since 2011 when Vanuatu remained on the starting blocks for hosting the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. However, the starting line was finally crossed at last year's General Assembly and now the Games were heading towards a successful conclusion. He said last year's report was one made in hope. This year's report was the reality that the Games were a success, although just how successful would be judged by the PGAs and the delegates.

Mark Stafford said that VAN2017 had focused on four pillars: athlete accommodation, catering, transport and the field of play, and he had received great feedback from the athletes on all four of these deliverables. He thanked the Council for the faith they had shown in Vanuatu, as well as the VAN2017 staff led by CEO Mr Clint Flood, and the Vanuatuan and Chinese Governments. He called it a "Games of Smiles" and he wished the delegates a happy conclusion to the Games and to their stay in Port Vila.

The Chairman thanked Mark Stafford and his team for the exceptional job they had done in such a short space of time. The Vanuatu PGA had twice almost thrown in the towel but VAN2017 had recruited an exceptional team to finally move off the start line and had then persevered to deliver a great Games. He advised the VAN2017 team to take all the accolades which would come their way as they had been well earned.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

B. Samoa 2019

Before commencing with a progress report on the 2019 Pacific Games, the Chairman asked the meeting to formally endorse the Executive Board's selection of Samoa to host the 2019 Pacific Games following the Tongan Government's withdrawal. He explained that the Executive Board had undertaken a rigorous expression of interest process and he thanked the Guam PGA for submitting a strong bid which only lacked a funding guarantee from the Legislature. He said that an expression of interest from Tahiti Nui had no detail and was not considered.

The meeting then unanimously ratified Samoa as the new host by acclamation.

Michael A. White (Northern Mariana Islands) thanked the Executive Board for making the best of a bad situation. He asked for an outline of the losses the Council was hoping to recoup through its legal action.

The Chairman said that the Council would seek to recover the costs of completing the expression of interest process; the lost revenue-sharing fees payable to the Council under the Host Agreement; and the damage to the Pacific Games brand and reputation in lost opportunities to generate sponsorship revenue.

The Chairman then invited Mr Patrick Fepulea'i (President) and Mr Tala Pauga (Secretary-General) of the Samoa PGA to present a progress report on preparations towards hosting the 2019 Pacific Games.

Patrick Fepulea'i thanked the Council for its endorsement of Samoa as the host PGA for the 2019 Pacific Games. He said that normally a PGA had seven years to prepare to host the Games; in this case it would be less than two and specifically there were just 573 days to go. He said Samoa submitted a bid because it was confident of successfully delivering the Games, despite the short timeframe. There was still expertise in the country from the 2007 South Pacific Games and the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games, and the facilities were all in place, with just some minor modifications needed.

Patrick Fepulea'i said the Samoan Government was fully committed to supporting the PGA to deliver the Games. Parliament was now appropriating funds and legislating to support the Games Organising Committee and the Audit & Governance Authority. The CEO position had been advertised and would be in place in the New Year, and host fee payments due to the Council would be honoured. He said that Samoa looked forward to welcoming delegates to the next General Assembly in 2018 to inspect the facilities.

Tala Pauga presented a report on the sports and venues (refer attached PowerPoint presentation and video), noting the official dates for the Games of 6-20 July 2019.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Following the presentation, Ricardo Blas (Guam) asked whether any other sports would be offered.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that Samoa had offered the maximum program of 26 sports in its bid, which had all since been confirmed at the indicative entries phase. It was not possible under the Charter to offer more than the maximum number of sports.

The Chairman thanked the Samoan PGA for its presentation and conveyed the Council's appreciation to the Samoan Government for stepping in to host the 2019 Pacific Games at short notice.

C. Northern Mariana Islands 2021

Michael A. White (President, Northern Mariana Islands PGA) informed the meeting that good progress continued to be made towards the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. The new Athletics track had been certified and the Baseball field had a new electronic scoreboard. Two indoor gymnasiums would be repaired and renovated in 2018 and the athletes' accommodation would all be at Marianas High School, which was within walking distance to eight of the twelve sports, and would soon receive a new cafeteria to seat 1,200 athletes. Technical officials would be housed in a nearby hotel. The Athletes' Village mayor was presently attending the Games in Vanuatu.

Michael A. White said that budgets were being finalised and at the Closing Ceremony in Vanuatu a short video message would be played welcoming the Pacific nations and territories to the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

The Chairman thanked Michael A. White for his briefing and invited questions.

Ricardo Blas (Guam) said he was concerned that no organisation chart had been presented and that the per diem of a \$450 fee was unfair on athletes who would only compete for a day or two and then return home. He asked the Council to address this.

Michael A. White responded that he was the Chairman of the Games Organising Committee, and that various chairs of the functional areas had been appointed. He said that it was inappropriate to raise the issue of the per diem as this formed part of the Northern Mariana Islands bid which the Council had accepted in 2014.

The Chairman thanked Michael A. White for his report. He agreed that the per diem fee was a feature of the bid in 2014 and it was too late now to re-open this issue, however if PGAs had concerns they could write to the Council who would address them as best they could. He said the Council's focus would soon turn to the 2021 Games with the 2017 Pacific Mini Games heading towards their conclusion.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

D. Solomon Islands 2023

Mr Martin Rara (President, Solomon Islands PGA) and Mr Gabriel Suri (Chairman, National Sports Council) were invited by the Chairman to present their progress report.

Martin Rara thanked the Council members for entrusting Solomon Islands with hosting the 2023 Pacific Games.

Gabriel Suri presented a report on the creation of a Games Taskforce to prepare the implementation of the governing legislation for the Games and for the MOU Agreement with the donor Taiwanese Government (refer attached PowerPoint presentation). He said that the Games would most likely be held in the month of July.

The Chairman thanked the Solomon Islands for their progress report. Whilst it was still early days in the 2023 Pacific Games project, he reiterated advice he had issued privately and that was to strike whilst the iron was hot. With a supportive Cabinet, including the former Prime Minister who was now the Deputy Prime Minister, this was the time to get things achieved, especially the donor funding agreements with Taiwan, which he asked for the Council to have an input into.

8. ONOC/OSFO REPORTS

Ricardo Blas (ONOC Secretary-General) said he did not require an update on activities given the recent ANOC meeting in Prague, which all ONOC members had participated in.

The Chairman thanked ONOC for all of the support they had provided in Vanuatu, including the successful Voices of the Athletes program at the Convention Centre.

Yvonne Mullins (OSFO Executive member) conveyed apologies from Chairman Kevan Gosper and Secretary-General Chet Grey who had returned home after the OSFO meetings. She said Kevan Gosper had been re-elected at the OSFO General Assembly on 2 December. The OSFO General Assembly had noted the growing relationship with the Council and passed recommendations to increasingly use the Pacific Games as qualification events and continental championships through the deeper involvement of Australian and New Zealand athletes and teams. OSFO believed this would raise the standards of athletes in the Pacific and the Pacific Games itself.

Yvonne Mullins also reported on the Tripartite Committee meetings in Port Vila, where ONOC, OSFO and the Council had agreed to form a working group to take these matters further. She also noted that the need for improved technical officiating capacity in the Pacific would be on the working group's agenda. Finally, she thanked the Council for her continuing role on the Sports Committee and she thanked Vanuatu for staging an excellent 10th Pacific Mini Games thus far.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chairman thanked Yvonne Mullins for her presentation and said the Council valued the strong working relationship it enjoyed with OSFO and would welcome further engagement through the Tripartite Committee's working group.

9. EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST 2025 PACIFIC MINI GAMES

The Chairman invited member PGAs to express an interest in hosting the 2025 Pacific Mini Games. He noted that the invitation to bid was issued on 10 November and that bids would be due on 22 February 2018, as the Executive Board had agreed to extend the original bid lodgment deadline of 22 January.

Etisone Imo (American Samoa) said that he had consulted with the American Samoa Governor, who was supportive of the American Samoa PGA lodging a bid.

Maru Talagi (Niue) said the Niue Government had indicated support for a bid by the Niue PGA. A new stadium would be built to support a program of 6-7 sports.

The Chairman thanked the delegates from American Samoa and Niue for expressing their interest in bidding for the 2025 Pacific Mini Games, and he said the Chief Executive Officer would soon circulate an updated invitation to bid with some further information.

10. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

The Chairman said that the Executive Board had an important matter of additional business, which was the situation concerning the Tahiti Nui PGA and the government interference which led to their boycotting the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. He said the Council needed to make an important statement that sport was independent and autonomous so that all PGAs could feel secure enough to govern independently.

The Chairman recounted that the President of the Government of French Polynesia had written to him, and copying all PGAs, with a threat to boycott the Games if certain athlete entry conditions regarding Tahiti Nui Rugby and Boxing teams was not met. He said it was a clear case of direct government interference in the decision-making processes of the Tahitian sporting federations. They should have been free to decide on their participation in the Games, and the government's only role should have been to support them if they chose to participate.

The Chairman said that the ONOC Executive Board had met soon after the President's letter was issued, and had suspended Tahiti Nui as an Associate member. He said the Council's Executive Board was of the view that if this behaviour was not checked, it would continue unabated in Tahiti Nui, and possibly elsewhere.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chairman referenced the situation in Tonga and the Government's withdrawal as the 2019 Pacific Games host. He reiterated the Council was taking legal action to send a strong message to other governments that binding contracts could not be unilaterally discarded. With Tahiti Nui, it was essential that firm action be taken to ultimately protect all members of the Council.

The Chairman then asked the Chief Executive Officer to recite the Executive Board's proposed resolution on the matter as well as the relevant provisions of the Charter.

The Chief Executive Officer read Section 4.6 of the Code of Conduct to the meeting:

The Council, in the case of an individual, acting on a two thirds majority may take action in respect of any breach of this code, and in particular, but without limitation may suspend and/or remove any person from any office of the Council, and in the case of a PGA, may remove its voting rights and/or withdraw the right of a PGA to participate in the Pacific Games or Pacific Mini Games.

The Chief Executive Officer then read the recommendation,

That the Council suspend the membership of Tahiti Nui PGA until such time as the Council was convinced that political interference in the governance of sport had ceased, which would include an undertaking from the Government of French Polynesia that it respected the autonomy of the Tahiti Nui PGA.

Before inviting comments or questions from delegates, the Chairman said that the Executive Board was not recommending any particular timeframe for these assurances to be received from the Tahiti Nui PGA and the Government.

Ricardo Blas (ONOC Secretary-General) said 2017 had been an interesting year in the region for the autonomy of sport, not only in Tahiti Nui but also Tonga where the Prime Minister had falsely claimed in Parliament that the Tongan NOC was bankrupt; a judgment that could only be rendered by ONOC. He said the Tongan NOC/PGA made every effort to honour its commitment to stage the 2019 Pacific Games but a personal feud involving the Prime Minister had intervened.

Ricardo Blas said that the threatening letter sent to the President of the Council was completely unacceptable and had caused ONOC to immediately suspend their Associate membership as a clear statement needed to be made. The role of government was to be a partner. In this case, he was also concerned that the Tahiti Nui PGA election was mandated by the courts rather than by the national federations. Elections had to reflect the will of the members. The perception at present in Tahiti Nui was that the governance of sport was being overshadowed by the Government.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

Sir John Dawanincura (Papua New Guinea) asked whether the Executive Board had sought legal advice before making the recommendation, and whether the Council would recognise the newly elected Tahiti PGA executive board. He noted that in Papua New Guinea, the PGA was trying to codify its autonomy via an MOU with the Government.

The Chairman said that obtaining legal advice was not necessary to enforce the Charter. He said the Executive Board had been sent the election documentation, including the notice of election and the signed attendance sheet of the voting national federations. All appeared to be in good order, however confirmation of the election process would form part of the assurances that the Council would require from the Tahiti Nui PGA and the Government of French Polynesia.

The Chief Executive Officer reiterated that the main principle behind the recommended suspension was not the election process within the Tahiti Nui PGA, but the boycott threat contained in the letter from the President of the Government of French Polynesia and the enthusiastic support it had received from many of the national federations.

Antoine Boudier (Vanuatu) said that whilst there many issues concerning the recognition of the Tahiti Nui Chef de Mission, as well as the Rugby and Boxing national federations, overriding all of this was the letter from the President of the Government of French Polynesia. The letter, in a nutshell, was saying to the national federations that their funding would continue only if they supported the boycott of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. The boycott was a disgrace and showed no respect to the host country, Vanuatu, and to all of the work VAN2017 and Vanuatu PGA had put into organising the Games. It was unsporting, and his work on the IOC Entourages Commission had convinced him that in this instance the interests of the athletes had been put last.

Patrick Fepulea'i (Samoa) said that the Council had to deal with what was at hand. The letter from the President of the Government of French Polynesia was a breach of the Charter and had to be dealt with. He supported the recommended suspension and then called for an examination of the processes that would be required to reinstate the PGA.

Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) said he supported the recommended suspension of the Tahiti Nui PGA because the national federations had clearly been bullied into boycotting the Games. If he were leading a national federation under such a threat, he would have felt pressure not to attend the Games.

Charles Cali (Nouvelle Calédonie) said one of the problems in Tahiti Nui was that the former President of the PGA was also simultaneously the Minister for Sport and this had created conflicts.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Chairman said a similar situation existed in many other countries around the world, and that these dual office-holders just had to respect where the lines were drawn. In the case of their NOC/PGA, they were duly elected by their respective National Federations.

Ricardo Blas (ONOC Secretary-General) reported that he had received many emails from Mr Charles Villierme, a member of the PGA who he had known for a very long time, and it became clear that he was speaking on behalf of the Government and the courts, and that they were controlling the decisions of the national federations. The situation with the Boxing and Rugby federations defying the boycott and having rival national federations created showed that other national federations feared speaking out and attending the Games. The resolution should be supported.

The Chairman thanked delegates for their support of the resolution to suspend the Tahiti Nui PGA which, he said, would come into effect at the end of the 2017 Pacific Mini Games. He then put the resolution to a roll call vote and it passed unanimously.

Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) offered an amendment to the resolution which would empower the Executive Board to make the decision to reinstate the Tahiti Nui PGA as it would save time and relieve the anxiety of athletes, rather than having to wait until the next General Assembly meeting.

The Chairman put that amendment to the floor and it passed unanimously. He then invited delegates to raise any items of additional business.

Hugh Graham (Cook Islands) offered thanks to the Council for allowing representatives of Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games to work with PGAs on their pre-DRMs and for also facilitating the Queen's Baton Relay's presence in Vanuatu during the Games.

The Chairman thanked Hugh Graham for his comments and invited Helen Brownlee of ONOC's Women and Sports of Oceania (WASO) to address the meeting.

Helen Brownlee thanked the nine women who were leading their delegations to the Vanuatu 2017 Pacific Mini Games as Chefs de Mission. She referred to the WASO breakfast held during the Pacific Mini Games; the programs WASO operated to empower women through sport; as well as the financial support WASO had delivered to NOCs to assist female athletes with the cost of participation at international events.

The Chairman thanked Helen Brownlee for her remarks and congratulated the nine female Chefs de mission for attaining their positions on merit.

Draft Minutes of the Pacific Games Council General Assembly: 10 December 2017
Convention Centre Auditorium, Port Vila, Vanuatu

11. NEXT MEETING AND CONCLUSION

The Chairman paid special tribute to the Vanuatu PGA and the VAN2017 Games Organising Committee for facilitating and hosting the meeting. He thanked the delegates for their attention and said they had made some important decisions to protect the integrity and autonomy of sport in the Pacific.

The Chairman thanked ONOC, OSFO and the Oceania Federations for their continued partnership and wished all delegates an enjoyable second week of the Games.

With no further business, the Chairman advised that the next meeting would be held in Apia, Samoa most likely in August 2018, subject to confirmation of dates.

He declared the meeting closed at 1.20pm.

DRAFT