



NATIONAL SPORTS AUTHORITY

THE GAA ELECTION: The Position of the National Sports Authority

20.08.2019

It has come to the notice of the National Sports Authority (NSA) that the Ghana Athletics Association (GAA) has held new elections and announced new leaders for the Association at a certain Special Elective Congress on Saturday August 17, 2019. The Authority in no uncertain terms condemn this irresponsible behavior of certain individuals in the GAA for disregarding the advice of the Authority and disrespecting the Constitution of GAA to go ahead to elect new officers.

The NSA therefore does not recognize the said elections and the outcome of this illegality.

The GAA breached its own constitution by disregarding Section 13.3 and Section 13.8 which required the Association to extend written notices to members for Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Special General Assembly (SGA) not less than Forty Two (42) days and Thirty (30) days respectively.

Similar regulations are contained in the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Constitution in Articles 26, 30 and 32 which specify that written notices of Ordinary meetings of Congress must be issued not less than twelve (12) months; and Special Congress meetings written notices must be given not less than three (3) months. Article 30.2(c) states that "This notice shall specify, if an Election Congress meeting, the positions to be elected and the date and time by which nominations for them shall be received by the Chief Executive Officer/Secretary General (being three (3) months prior to the Election Congress meeting)".

The NSA learnt on the 15th August, 2019 through a letter dated 14th August, 2019 written and signed by Fuseini Bawah announcing the Elective Congress on Saturday 17th August, 2019, with three (3) days' notice for the elections (breaching their constitutional requirement of 42 days of advance notice); and without any prior meeting of the Association with the NSA especially through the Technical Department which regulates services of General Secretaries serving on Associations and Federations, to discuss roadmap for the election after eight (8) months litigation which saw extensive mediation efforts of the NSA to resolve the court matter and the court ordering the Association to go to Congress according to their constitution.

The Authority also noticed that the person who issued the notice happened to be a staff of the NSA who had already been transferred to another association as Secretary General and replaced with another staff by name Rafique Arthur. The Authority regularly transfers SGs who are non-elected members of the associations and federations.

The Authority established also that many members were absent from the Congress and were not given the chance to file their nominations to contest for the elections.

Subsequently, the Association was warned not to go ahead with the elections and rather follow the due process as specified in the GAA's own constitution and in the Sports Act 2016 (Act934) which enjoins the NSA to license and regulate sports associations and federations in Ghana. Thus no official from the Authority observed the election which also did not take place in our facility as commonly done.

The Authority therefore cannot uphold the outcome of this illegal election and calls for fresh elections to be conducted within the confines of the law.

Signed

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