

## **Media Release**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**To: Media Officer; Post Courier, The National, EMTV, NBC**

**Subject: Football Ban | John Wesley Gonjuan**

### **Decision by FIFA Ethic Committee**

I acknowledge the decision by the FIFA Ethic Committee that was taken on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2019 which I received on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The decision is a slap in the face to me and the entire football family in our beautiful nation. In my opinion, we (PNG) did our very best to rise up to the occasion and delivered the world class event despite the limited resources we had and the limited time given to us.

I have discussed the matter with my lawyers to review their decision and will decide the next action in due course.

### **FIFA U20 Women World Cup 2016**

PNG had only eight (8) months to prepare and deliver the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup. As we know that the FIFA requirements to stage such a world class event was enormous. The decision to bid to host that event was done in 2015 and I wasn't involved but was brought in to help in the process in November 2015.

After a number of strategic and planning meetings between FIFA, PNGFA and PNG Sports Foundation (representing the interest of the government of the day) a decision was made in April 2016 for PNG to host the FIFA U20 WWC in November 2016.

It was a mammoth task, given the short time and we at PNGFA, LOC, PNGSF including FIFA LOC team worked tirelessly to deliver the event. To be honest, there were lot of cut and paste and readjustment that we had to do to deliver the world class event.

### **My Involvement in the FIFA U20 WWC**

During the FIFA U20 WWC, I was engaged as the Competitions & Team Services Manager. My key role among others were involved in overseeing the construction and development of the two (2) mini stadiums (now called the Bava Park and PNG Football Stadium respectively), eight (8) additional training fields apart from the five (5) training fields that we already had in Port Moresby. Furthermore, I had the oversight and visibility over the Team Service Department, Medical Department and the Operation at the four (4) different stadiums and twelve (12) training venues.

The procurement and financial delegation including approval were responsibilities of the CEO of the LOC and his deputy and the finance team; I had none of those powers.

During the preparation and delivery of the tournament, we engaged casuals to join the different departments within the LOC and in the Competition Department where seventy plus (70+) casuals engaged. Nearly 90% of those casuals had no bank account and or never had any formal employment prior to their engagement with the LOC. They were unemployed youths (males and females) within different suburbs of NCD. A number of them are currently helping out every weekend at Bisini Football Park during PMSA Competitions.

FIFA had a no cash policy therefore it was difficult for LOC to pay those volunteers; with that in mind, the LOC CEO approached me to engagement my company to manage the compensation or allowances for those volunteers.

### **Aftermath of the FIFA U20 WWC**

After the conclusion of the FIFA U20 WWC in December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, the LOC had a liability of over PGK 6million for monies owing to approximately 85 service providers. Indications were that LOC were going to be left alone to find monies to settle these debts. Between 2017 and 2018, we had to persistently pursue with FIFA to assist the LOC with this liability. The LOC didn't have the financial capability to settle these outstanding debts.

During that process FIFA conducted two (2) independent financial audits, and FIFA had to settle the debts with most of the service providers in early 2019. When David Chung resigned in early 2018, I took carriage of the matter till it was concluded. Unfortunately, some disputed service providers were not paid and also the final staff salary component for LOC staff members were rejected by FIFA and were not settled to date.

### **Investigation Conduction by FIFA Investigation Chamber of the FIFA Ethics Committee**

The FIFA investigation found that I was guilty of the following;

1. an infringement of article 19 (Conflict of Interest) of the FIFA Code of Ethics in relation to a conflict of interest with my company and
2. as well as of article 20 (Offering and accepting of gifts or other benefits) of the FIFA Code of Ethics, in relation to the receipt of an unjustified amount in the 2016 connection to my role as an official of the FIFA U20 WWC 2016.

The investigation was conducted from the LOC financial report and the auditor's reports provided to FIFA. There were no cross examination of those reports.

With regard to infringement #1; as explain above; FIFA had a no cash policy therefore it was difficult for LOC to pay those volunteers; the LOC CEO approached me to engagement my company to manage the compensation or allowances for those volunteers. It was a normal business transaction whereby timesheets were kept as record of attendance for the casuals and invoice was raised at the end of the pay period ending. Each casuals had to sign off when collection their allowances. The former LOC Chief Executive Officer has confirmed this in his letter to FIFA Ethics Committee dated 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019.

With regard to infringement #2; I have no record and or knowledge of accepting gifts or other benefits from any persons or service provider(s).

### **Conclusion**

Subsequently, I have resigned from my position as the PMSA President and PNGFA Senior Vice President as due to the decision of the FIFA Ethics Committee.

From the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank every individual, football clubs, corporate organizations and families that supported football one way or the other during my term as the President of PMSA since 2013. Also, would like to thank all the PNGFA member associations for your believe and trust in me and appointing me as the PNGFA Senior Vice President in 2016.

As I said earlier, I have discussed the matter with my lawyers to review their decision and will decide the next action in due course.

Thank you and God bless you all.

***John Wesley Gonjuan***