

## **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT FOR THE AFRICA CRICKET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT**

Once again we have come to the end of another financial year. And how time flies!

The year began with so much promise but ended with the challenges posed by the global economic recession precipitated by the credit crunch.

Still, we forged on with our mandate to administer, promote and develop the game of cricket across the Africa continent. This we did through programmes for the development of coaching and umpiring, and expanding cricket administration within national cricket organizations.

Thanks to a barter sponsorship deal for cricket equipment that we struck, and thanks to our investments and foreign exchange gains, we were able to realize a profit of 171k thousand South African rand.

However, not all revenue has been collected. At the time of going to print, the issue of 20 percent of the Africa share from the proceeds of the 2007 Afro- Asia Series had still not been resolved. The matter is under due process and remains with the courts.

We are grateful to the world cricket governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), for its funding during the year.

This made it possible for us to have the Africa World Cricket League (WCL) Division 2 and 3 tournaments at Willowmoore Park Cricket Stadium in Benoni, South Africa and the under-17 regional tournaments in Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa.

We also noted with satisfaction the competitive performances by Botswana and Mozambique in the ICC WCL Division 5 tournament in Jersey and by Kenya and Namibia in the Intercontinental Cup.

Congratulations to Tanzania for hosting the ICC WCL Division 4 tournament in October; and Kenya the senior women's tournament for the East Africa region in December.

We also had various cricket clinics throughout the African continent to help develop the game.

Together with our Asian counterparts, we are now in final negotiations with our commercial partners to conclude the logistics for the 2009 edition of the Afro-Asian Cup which is set for Kenya.

All that remains now is for me to thank our secretariat at ACA, the members, the spectators, the sponsors, the media and everyone else who played a part in making 2008 the successful year that it was for cricket in Africa.

Thank you all!

### **Valedictory**

As I will not be standing for re-election for the Chairmanship of the ACA, may I take this opportunity to make my farewell remarks?

I was elected Chairman of the Africa Cricket Association (ACA) at its annual general meeting in Kampala, Uganda, in 1998.

ACA started off as the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa Zone V1 Cricket Confederation which had its inaugural meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, in 1991. But we found that working within the regional confines would not afford us the best springboard to launch the development of cricket and so we decided to go continental. This was more so because, by 1996, countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda which fell outside the region had started participating in its cricket tournaments and Nigeria was also showing interest.

We were also motivated by the concept of the African renaissance and the role cricket could play to promote sport tourism for the continent, to market our countries positively, offer employment and keep African children off the streets.

And so we set out to spread the "gentleman's game" around the continent. This we are doing through development programmes and facilities and kit donations to members.

We applied for and were granted regional status by the ICC in 2007.

Working with an executive of volunteers passionate about cricket and committed to see it develop and flourish on the continent, we oversaw the growth of the game in many countries.

One such success story is Uganda which rose to become one of 12 countries in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup Qualifier in South Africa in April 2009. Only a surprise loss by one wicket to Oman stopped their progress into the Super Eight stage of the qualifier.

Over the years, the organization has continued to grow, with 17 member countries in 2005 and now the ACA membership stands at 22. We continue to receive applications for membership. The latest requests have come from Cape Verde, Egypt, Libya, Madagascar, Rodriguez Islands and Senegal. Against that background, we anticipate that membership could rise to 29 by the end of 2009.

On matters regarding play, in the beginning we had Hussein Ayob successfully implementing coaching programmes and doing other development work and running ACA together with the ICC Africa office.

Cassim Suliman was then appointed as the ACA Chief Executive Officer on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2005, and arranged for offices with the Easterns Cricket Union in Benoni.

With a continental organization in place, the next move was to consolidate it by establishing links with like-minded bodies elsewhere. The Asian Cricket Council was a natural choice, given that Africa and Asia have links going back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

And so was born the Afro-Asian Cricket Cooperation which I was honored to serve as Vice-Chairman.

We cascaded the boardroom ties to the playing field and so began the Afro-Asian Cup.

The inaugural tournament was in South Africa in August, 2005. The next tournament was in Asia in 2007.

We did not ignore the gender issue and throughout my tenure, we kept it on the continental cricket agenda.

Our promotion of women's cricket saw us send a side to the Afro-Asia Series in 2007.

Throughout the years, we have also managed to grow the organization's portfolio and now have 7, 4 million rand in investments.

Of course there have been challenges for example the ever-escalating costs of running the game and freighting equipment from abroad. But we worked together to find ways of meeting the challenges for the betterment of cricket in Africa.

I was honored to work with such brilliant administrators like our founding father, the late Krish Mackerdhuj and the inspiring late Advocate Percy Sonn, both of whom were the first Life Members of ACA. It was a privilege too to work with Ray Mali. All of them were excellent mentors and so I am privileged to have had the occasion to learn from them.

I have also been very fortunate to work with a high caliber of committee members who made it possible for us to achieve all the goals we set out for ACA.

To all those people who also helped in whatever way to develop the game across the width and breadth of the continent, I owe a debt of gratitude.

In conclusion, I am happy to say that we have given our honest endeavor to the task we were mandated with.

The prospects for the game of cricket on the continent are very bright, and the sky is the limit.

I remain a servant of the game and available to assist ACA and my successor in any small way.

Thank you.

**P. F. CHINGOKA**  
**Chairman**  
**Africa Cricket Association**