



# MOTORSPORT SOUTH AFRICA NPC

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2nd Floor, Meersig 1, Cnr. Upper Lake Lane & Constantia Boulevard, Constantia Kloof, Roodepoort  
e-mail: [msa@motorsport.co.za](mailto:msa@motorsport.co.za) Telephone (011) 675 2220

## REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR THE MSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2021

In my report for last year's AGM I said that MSA would post a significant Covid-19 induced financial loss for the year. Fortunately this proved not to be the case as, a few weeks after the AGM, MSA received the very welcome news that it would be receiving an unexpected level of Covid relief funding aimed at assisting job retention amidst the economic devastation caused by the pandemic. A sincere vote of thanks and appreciation is offered to the South African government as its contribution significantly reduced the financial deficit on MSA's 2020 operations.

This year has seen further pandemic-related disruption to the motorsport calendar, although fortunately not, at the time of writing, to the extent of that experienced during 2020. What has however been devastating is the human toll that the Covid 3<sup>rd</sup> wave has taken. So many members of the local motorsport community have passed on due to Covid complications that it has been truly shocking and difficult to comprehend. I would like to offer my, and MSA's, sympathies to all those who have lost family members, friends and colleagues to this terrible virus. I would also like to pay particular tribute to senior race officials and motorsport administrators Wally Pappas, Dick Shuttle and Tony Taylor, all of whom I worked with over many years. They contributed greatly to MSA, and the sport more widely, over many decades and will be sorely missed, as will all of those the sport has lost in this tragic year.

Looking to the future, the necessity to bring more, younger race officials into the sport has never been more imperative. This will therefore be an area MSA will be paying particular attention to, with emphasis on attracting officials of colour. The sport's competitor base is becoming increasingly diverse and so too must the core of race officials in order to keep pace. MSA's members and all those involved in the sport are therefore encouraged to advise MSA of the names of any individuals, particularly people of colour, who may be interested in becoming race officials and MSA will take things from there.

I spoke about karting in my report to last year's AGM and, since then, a seismic shift took place when the Rotax series elected to withdraw from running under the auspices of MSA. The various Rok series classes remained under MSA and, as this series has classes that are more closely aligned with the CIK international classes, fresh impetus was given to the

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Directors: A. Roux (Chairman), A. Scholtz (Chief Executive Officer), R. Beekun (Financial), Mrs. D Abrahams, A. Harri, M. Hashe, FC. Kraamwinkel, Dr G. Mills, C. Oates, R. Schilling, Ms M. Spurr, S. Themba

proponents of South African championship karting becoming more internationally relevant. The change also allows for a more focussed approach, which in itself can often hold benefits. Time will tell how this will all work out but the MSA karting year to date has certainly been calmer and less controversial than in recent years. It is sincerely hoped that this state of affairs continues and becomes part of the 'new normal' we hear so much about!

As mentioned in my AGM report last year, online racing has become a focus area for MSA in 2021. While Covid has unfortunately delayed any possibility of embracing the wider public in any mass market initiatives, MSA partnered with ATK E Sports (Pty) Ltd to run a series of online racing events leading up to a final *MSA Showdown* event at the end of July. The *MSA Showdown* was won by a 17 year old black youngster, Koketso Pilane, and he therefore qualified to represent South Africa in the digital racing component of the FIA Motorsport Games to be held in France in October 2021. MSA wishes Koketso well as he represents the country on what will be his first overseas trip.

Despite the travel restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, many South Africans have still been able to manage to race internationally during 2021, with some noteworthy results being achieved in racing categories ranging from Circuit Racing to Hard Enduro motorcycle sport.

Staying on the international front, it has been confirmed that a round of the FIA Formula E World Championship will be taking place on a street circuit in Cape Town, starting in 2022. It will be the first opportunity for fans to see this all-electric racing series in action on local soil and there is sure to be a great deal of interest in the event for this reason. The local promoters of the event are intending to utilise Formula E as a catalyst for Cape Town to be positioned as the country's foremost city in the fields of sustainability and e-mobility so this event will be about more than racing alone.

In closing, I would like to once again express my deepest thanks to all of those, from MSA's members and various volunteer structures to event organisers and race officials, for all that they do to continue to make the sport happen in exceptionally trying circumstances. Thank you also to all the competitors who continue to take part in motorsport events, despite all the economic pressures and the uncertainty that has become part of our daily lives. Collectively, you are the backbone of local motorsport and your combined efforts will ensure that all of us who hold motorsport dear to our hearts will still have a sport as we slowly emerge from the pandemic.

Thank you and stay safe,



ADRIAN SCHOLTZ  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER