

2020 MG INDABA  
OUDTSHOORN  
3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Date: 04 June 2020



## CANCELLATION OF 2020 INDABA

Dear Indaba Entrants

When we reported our stance on the COVID-19 pandemic in March this year, we had just been informed of a nation-wide lockdown. We expected the lockdown to last for a period of 21 days and hoped that this would arrest the spread of the virus. At that stage we had no idea of how widely the virus would spread, or how long it would be before we could safely resume normal activities.

We are pleased to see that the restrictions imposed at that time have been partially lifted, and the restrictions that we have been subjected to have been lowered, initially from Level 5 to Level 4, and now to Level 3. However we can clearly see that the infection levels that were between 10 to 15 new cases per day in mid-March are now at 1000 to 1500 per day (a 1000% increase! ), and continue to increase at an exponential rate. The relaxation of restrictions is an attempt to partially reverse the catastrophic economic effects of a total lockdown, and we have been warned that a Level 4 or Level 5 lockdown might be reinstated if deemed necessary due to significant increases in the level of infections.

Current predictions indicate that the peak in the rate of infections can be expected in the period between July and September, and many events, sporting and otherwise, scheduled during this period have been cancelled. Predictions also indicate that dealing with the COVID-19 virus will be part of our lives for a long time, possibly until such time as a vaccine has been discovered and made available to everyone.

It is therefore clear to us that there is no possibility of continuing with the Indaba in September as planned. Taking into account the risk profile of our members as well as the continued uncertainty with regard to the future path of COVID-19, our committee has decided against a postponement of the event to a later date this year or in 2021, but that the safest option in the current conditions, unfortunately, is to cancel the event.

Our proposal is that, if conditions permit, the next Indaba should be held in 2022. If the National Body is agreeable to the Port Elizabeth Centre continuing to host the 2022 Indaba as is currently planned, then Cape Town Centre could host the following Indaba in 2024.

With regard to the cancellation of the 2020 Indaba, we will be refunding amounts paid by all entrants, excluding those who have previously withdrawn from the event. As we stated in our previous communication on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, 100% of the deposits paid by entrants will be refunded. An email will be sent to each entrant, providing details of the amount and date that they can expect their refund.

We are extremely disappointed at having to cancel the 2020 Indaba after all the work that has gone into the preparations. However we thank you all for patiently awaiting our final decision, and trust that we will meet up at the next Indaba.

Kind regards

Indaba Committee

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