

Garry Kasparov
13 December 2011

Dear South African Chess Friends

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for the hospitality and support that I received during my visit to Johannesburg. I also wish to thank you for the interest that was shown in the most worthy of endeavours - the education of our children.

In an age when schools are facing significant budgetary restraints, there is a greater need than ever to make chess available to as many students as possible. We cannot do this alone however and with your help, we hope to be able to bring chess into the classrooms where it belongs.

I am pleased to announce that I intend to officially launch the operations of the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa in March 2012 and I have decided to base these operations in Johannesburg, South Africa. I am confident that the various programmes that will accompany the launch of my foundation will help to encourage creativity, instil self-discipline and offer hope and a feeling of accomplishment to millions of children across the African continent.

Our History

My non-profit foundation has been heavily involved in bringing chess into school curricula worldwide and we have received amazing responses to date. Our activities in the USA are enormous and we recently also launched operations in Europe. Abu Dhabi, Africa, and South America are next on the agenda.

The history of the Kasparov Chess Foundation dates back to 2002 when we officially launched in the United States. We are currently bringing chess to children and young adults from over 3 500 schools across all 50 of the US states and we operate a wide range of activities including

- Curriculum Programs
- Extended-Day Programs
- Community-based Classes
- Teacher Training
- Organization of Tournaments and
- Publishing & Distribution of Chess Educational Literature

Following our success in the USA we went on to launch KCF Europe which is based in Brussels and has been fully operational as from September 2011. This organisation is currently seeking to work with the various EU governments to promote chess to schools and make it part of the educational system across all EU member states.

It is my firm belief however that the future of chess lies in the developing world and we are thus extremely excited about the launch of our operations in both South Africa and Brazil.

The launch of both these new foundations is scheduled to take place in early 2012.

Partnership plans

I was extremely impressed with the operations and efforts of the team from Moves for Life and I have thus decided to partner with this local NGO and support their efforts to roll out a fit for purpose chess education based curriculum to schools across the country. Whilst the operations of Moves for Life are initially likely to focus on schools in South Africa, we will actively seek opportunities to partner with similar organisations or expand our operations beyond South Africa's borders as soon as possible.

I further hope to be able to partner with all local chess federations on the African continent in due course as this is critical to securing the necessary support from Governments and other key political influencers.

Overview of proposed operations in Africa

The mission of the Kasparov Chess Foundation Africa is primarily to bring the many educational benefits of chess to children by providing access to a complete chess curriculum as well as various enrichment programs.

We will also focus efforts on the training of local African players however and we will invest time in the improvement of structured chess events across the continent. Both of these activities are important to ensure that adequate opportunities are provided for the most talented players on the continent.

The Foundation will be formally structured in South Africa as a Section 21 “Not for Profit” Organisation and will be administered by a representative Board of Directors from across the continent. I intend to serve as the Chairman of this Board and I intend to guide and direct the operations in support of the key goals below:

The primary goals of the African Foundation will be:

1. To act as a fund-raising vehicle in support of various chess in schools initiatives across the African continent;
2. To facilitate advanced chess training for talented local players from across the African continent; and
3. To facilitate formal training for both chess organisers and trainers across the African continent.

KCF Africa Launch

I will be returning to South Africa between the 21st and the 27th March 2012 and I intend to visit both Cape Town and Johannesburg during this forthcoming trip. Whilst the primary purpose will be to formally launch the implementation phase of KCF Africa, there will be various additional activities associated with this trip. Full details will be released in due course.

Conclusion

My wish is to use the reputation and authority I earned during my chess career and as a successful fund raiser to support positive change at a regional level, and empower local federations to promote chess and chess related activities throughout their local jurisdictions.

Best Regards



Garry Kasparov
13th World Chess Champion
New York, USA