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INFORMATION LETTER – AUGUST 2025

With the dust settling at Donnybrook, Zimbabwe, it is a pleasure to reflect on the success of this year's event. The 23rd edition of the MXOAN brought together an excellent field of competitors, delivered exciting racing, and concluded with very few injuries. As with all events, there were highs and lows, but overall it was a memorable and inspiring occasion. Looking ahead, 2027 will mark the 25th anniversary of the MXOAN, a landmark year that will be celebrated with pride. The question remains: which nation will have the honour of hosting this milestone event?

Growth and Inspiration Across Africa

Uganda's presence was truly inspirational, fielding 36 competitors, including several junior females. Their journey is remarkable. In 2003, they arrived at Namibia's Gallina track with just three dismantled bikes carried on a bus, unfamiliar with sand tracks and ill-equipped in terms of safety gear. Today, Uganda boasts six motocross tracks, a comprehensive rider development system, and ongoing training programmes for officials and trainers. Their riders are competing internationally, gaining strength and recognition, and their federation has earned support from both the government and the public. This transformation in less than 20 years stands as a model of resilience and good leadership.

Madagascar also deserves commendation. Relatively unknown before their appearance in Cape Town, they have since proven their capability with a small but professional team. Despite challenges such as late bike arrivals, they showed composure, discipline and commitment, both on and off the track. Their adherence to FIM Africa protocols and quiet determination speak volumes about their growing potential.

Namibia's return to the MX scene was equally encouraging. Their pit area was consistently neat and professional, while their strong social media presence brought value to sponsors and contributed to offsetting their significant travel expenses of 3 730 km and multiple border crossings. It was therefore a pleasure to confirm, at the Prize Giving ceremony, that Windhoek's Gallina MX Track will host the MXOAN in 2026, following Namibia's successful Expression of Interest and fulfilment of all hosting criteria.



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Kenya, Zambia and Botswana each fielded smaller teams, yet their contributions to the competition were significant. Zambian rider Caitlyn Parkes dominated the WMX class, while Botswana added prestige by including Dakar competitor Ross Branch in their line-up.

South Africa once again demonstrated their strength, producing top-quality riders who secured victories in almost every category. Zimbabwe, the host nation, also impressed with riders such as Jayden Ashwell and Ash Thixton, who produced excellent performances against world-class opposition.

Upholding Standards and Behaviour

While the standard of racing was outstanding, some off-track behaviour was disappointing and must be addressed. Pit areas left untidy, inappropriate conduct towards officials, and instances of drunken behaviour undermined the professionalism of the event. From 2026, financial penalties will be introduced to address such issues.

The dinner arrangements were another unfortunate point. Despite careful planning to ensure everyone was catered for, some individuals took excessive portions or brought in unregistered guests, leaving others without food. This lack of consideration created unnecessary stress for the Organiser, who had worked hard to provide a fair and enjoyable experience.

Courtesy and respect must also be upheld during official proceedings. Talking during speeches and poor behaviour in formal settings show a lack of respect not only for organisers but for the sport itself. Riders and officials represent their countries, and how they conduct themselves can influence future sponsorship and opportunities. Talent alone is not enough; dignity, pride and respect are equally important.

Role Models and Leadership

The participation of Dakar finishers Ross Branch and Ash Thixton highlighted the values that MXOAN seeks to promote. Both began their competitive journeys at this event, and their careers are living proof that sportsmanship, discipline and good manners are as vital as racing ability. They stand as role models for the younger generation and a reminder of the standards that must be upheld.



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Looking ahead, the MX Commission and Directors will introduce changes for 2026 aimed at strengthening the sport, supporting international aspirations, and ensuring that riders representing Africa do so with professionalism and integrity.

Preparing for 2026 – A Note to North and West Africa

With fewer than 365 days until MXOAN 2026 in Namibia, now is the time for federations in North and West Africa to begin preparations. Transportation logistics will be crucial, and shipping may be a viable option. However, teams must take into account Namibia's requirements and the considerable distance between Walvis Bay and Windhoek. Early planning will help ensure a smoother and more efficient participation.

Gratitude to Zimbabwe

To our hosts in Zimbabwe, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your unwavering commitment through weekly meetings, updates, scheduling, GSR and MX seminar participation, logistical arrangements, and track preparation ensured that this event was delivered to the highest standard. The dedication and hard work involved in hosting such a competition is immense, and you rose to the challenge admirably. To quote some other sport "you stepped up to the plate and knocked it out of the park" HEARTFELT THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS.

FIM AFRICA ADMINISTRATION

20/08/2025