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24.06.2021, Tallinn, The Republic of Estonia

to**: the National Draughts Federations**

Subject: the Ivory Coast issue

Dear colleagues,

Two years ago from 23-29 of May 2019 the World Cup Abidjan Open was held in Ivory Coast. Unfortunately, the financial obligations to pay prize money to the participants had not been fulfilled by the Ivorian Draughts federation (FIJD) and the President Mr. Basile Goue Bi. During more than 7 months after the event finished Mr.Basile had been sending to FMJD his promises to fulfill all the obligations but he never fulfilled them. FMJD was forced to take measures and set deadline for FIJD to pay all the debts which was broken.

Meanwhile in the Ivory Coast Draughts Federation dissatisfaction with the President Basile Goue Bi grew. The election process in FIJD started on December 28th, 2019. But due to no quorum during the GA, the elections were reported two weeks later according to FIJD Status and decisions of this GA. Two weeks later the GA of FIJD took place automatically on 11 January 2020 and Mr. Bolou Tui was elected the new President of FIJD.

Mr.Basile refused to attend that GA but organized another (his own) GA on 18 January 2020 (3 weeks later the GA of 28th December) which he assumes the legitimate one because Ministry of Sports was represented by person supporting Mr.Basile and whose presence was not an obligatory demand. It is also important to indicate that the majority of active elite players of Ivory Coast such as MI Eugène Aman, MI Ano Adonis, MF Jacques Aka, MF Edmond Beugre, Elsa Biagne Negbre (Reigning African Women champion) and their leader GMI Joel Atse (reigning African men champion), are all in favor of Mr.Bolou Tui. Most of these players are qualified to play in the World Championship Men in International Draughts 2021.

The new elected President Mr.Tui right away started fulfilling the entire financial obligation instead of the former President of FIJD by paying his own funds (Mr.Basile managed to pay only 600 Euros from the 10.000 Euros he was obliged to pay in total). And in short period all the financial debts of the World Cup Abidjan Open 2019 were fulfilled.

Since 11 January 2020 FMJD recognizes Mr.Tui as the only legitimate President of FIJD elected in conformity with Status and Regulations of FIJD and decisions of regular GA of FIJD of December 28, 2019 and cooperates directly with Mr.Tui and his board.

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Moreover, Mr.Basile himself was suspended by the FMJD Council for 4 years due to the unfulfilled financial obligations towards the players from World Cup Abidjan 2019.

De facto there are two draughts parties in Ivory Coast now: one party belongs to Mr.Tui and another one – to Mr.Basile. De juro we are dealing with one federation (FIJD) which at this moment has two Presidents and their teams claiming themselves legitimate.

Taking in the account the current situation and the mass of information that we possess, respecting the Statutes and the decisions of the FIJD General Assembly and in accordance with the bylaws, that the FIJD represented, the FMJD Council submits to the General Assembly Mr. Tui as the only President of FIJD and requests the member-federations to support the decision of the FMJD Council to cooperate with Mr.Tui and his board at the General Assembly in Tallinn this year.

Your sincerely,
Janek Maggi
FMJD President