

Dear valued Teams and Stakeholders,

After several strategic discussions with key stakeholders, including teams, sponsors, and other invested parties, it is with a heavy heart that we announce the indefinite cancellation of the 2024 Ilanga Cup event. This decision follows a common realization that the current landscape poses significant challenges for solar car teams, particularly regarding the pressure and strain placed on resources and capacity when participating in multiple events within a single solar car project build cycle which typically spans over a period of 18 months.

The consensus reached during these discussions led to the clear conclusion that in order to alleviate the burden on teams and allow them to focus their efforts effectively, it is essential to streamline our collective focus. As a result, we have decided to prioritize the Sasol Solar Challenge for the foreseeable future. By concentrating our efforts on this flagship event, teams can dedicate their resources and capacity to maximizing their preparation in this internationally recognized competition.

While we wholeheartedly acknowledge and celebrate the positive outcomes that have emerged from the Ilanga Cup, including the invaluable experiences, birth of new teams and achievements shared by participants, it has become evident that hosting multiple events simultaneously detracts from the primary goal of empowering and supporting teams in their journey towards the Sasol Solar Challenge and ultimately impacting the greater focus of their solar car projects.

Our commitment to celebrating and acknowledging the accomplishments and benefits derived from the Ilanga Cup remains unwavering. The spirit of camaraderie, innovation, and collaboration fostered by this event will be remembered and cherished. Furthermore, we assure you that the resources and support previously allocated to the Ilanga Cup will be redirected towards enhancing the Sasol Solar Challenge experience for all participating teams. This will be done through additional activations and campaigns driven by the Sasol Solar Challenge to ensure that teams gain the necessary additional exposure in addition to their participation in the Sasol Solar Challenge.

In line with this strategic shift, we are pleased to announce that the mini-EV Challenge will be integrated into the scrutineering portion of the Sasol Solar Challenge that will take place at Red Star Raceway in Delmas. This addition will provide a platform for this development programme to grow, offering young learners the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in designing, building, and competing in renewable energy vehicles. By incorporating the mini-EV Challenge into the Sasol Solar Challenge, we aim to foster a nurturing environment where young minds can thrive and contribute to the future of sustainable transportation.

While the future of the Ilanga Cup remains uncertain at this juncture, we do not discount the possibility of its return should its viability and benefits be reaffirmed in the future. Our priority is to ensure that teams receive the maximum exposure and support for their sponsors and stakeholders, and we will continue to explore avenues to achieve this objective.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we navigate this transition. Together, we remain committed to advancing the goals and aspirations of the solar car community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Walker', positioned above a horizontal line.

Event Director
Rob Walker

