

**PRESS RELEASE – AMATEUR SWIMMING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA**  
**JULY 27, 2006**

**NATIONAL WATER POLO TEAM IN CASH CRISIS**

Jamaica's participation in the Pan American Junior Water Polo Championships, to be held in Montreal Canada starting August 5<sup>th</sup>, is in serious jeopardy due to a significant short fall in funding. The Amateur Swimming Association of Jamaica has been working hard to raise the JA\$3.1 million required to send Jamaica's National Junior Male and Female teams but with just eight days to go before the team is scheduled to depart, only JA\$500,000 has been secured, leaving a deficit of JA\$2.5 million

The Teams qualified for the Championships when they won the Bronze Medals at last years Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championships which was followed up by a double Gold Medal performance at the 2006 CARIFTA Swimming Championships in Barbados. Despite the excellent results, the ASAJ has not been able to find sufficient sponsorship to support the National Water Polo Team.

The ASAJ has sought to raise funding in numerous ways, including: A Pan Drive (by the National Team players), a Sunday Brunch held on July 16, numerous requests to local Companies, a request to the Sports Development Foundation (SDF) and sponsorship requests by the players parents. The response from Corporate Jamaica has been limited and the SDF recently turned down the ASAJ's application.

In a meeting with the players parents last night, ASAJ President John Eyre stated that the situation is critical, and that if the funding is not found, Jamaica's participation will have to be canceled. He is extremely concerned about the effect that such a late pull out will have on the local programme as well as Jamaica's image in the International Water Polo community.

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Participation in the Pan Am Water Polo Championships is a critical to the Associations development plan as it is the regional qualifying competition for the 2007 FINA Junior Male and Female Water Polo Championships which will be held in Long Beach, California and Porto, Portugal respectively. The top six (6) male and four (4) female teams will automatically qualify for the World Championships.

The ASAJ is appealing to Corporate Jamaica and any other interested organizations for funding.

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