



for his permanent contributions to national interest with the true spirit of a sportsman and the finesse of a leader-administrator; for empowering young Croatian athletes with skills and opportunities to rise above socio-economic and socio-cultural ceilings and creating a platform for harmonious integration through sports



inspiring and incredible. He recently quoted at the forum (LIFE):

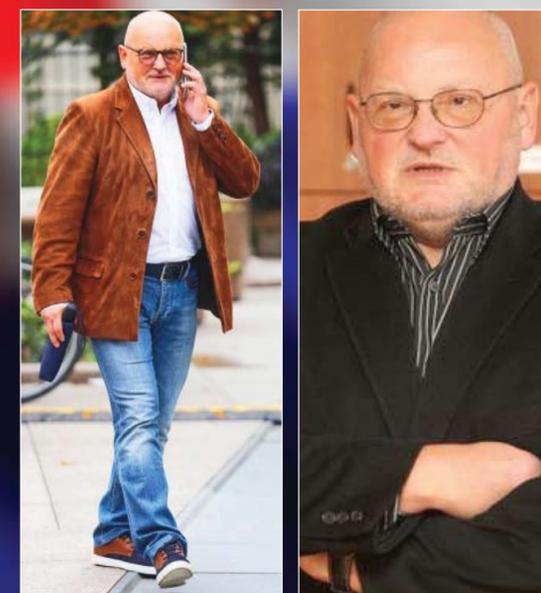
... My first day in office: It was after the war and aggression on Croatia. I came to the office and I realized I'm dealing with 500,000 refugees and displaced persons in the country of 4 million people and also more than

100,000 homes, which were ruined and destroyed. We rebuilt all these homes and gave it back to the citizens, who used to live in these homes for free and thus we solved the problem of the 500,000 people.

A committed humanist and human rights activist himself, Dr. Matesa is also a member of the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights – he advocates equal rights for any human being to live a decent life. Dr. Matesa strongly believes that although we are much more oriented towards political freedom, democracy, fair elections, freedom of press & media – we must never ignore the basic human rights for a dignified life – we must not ignore the fact that half of the world population is living on less than \$2.5 a day.

One of the most popular teacher and still very much active as an academician, he is Vice Dean and professor of Strategic Management at his alma mater – the Zagreb School of Economics and Management. An athlete himself; a water polo player, sports pilot and sailor – and as Croatian Olympic Committee President, Dr. Zlatko Matesa deserves as much credit for his contribution in promoting the Republic of Croatia as a democratic state as he deserves immense credit for his permanent contributions towards the promotion of sport and athletics in Croatia. An institution in himself, he has ensured ethical and moral standards in sport; strict adherence to the anti-doping Code and meticulous monitoring of the athletes – thus ushering an era of top sports achievements of the Croatian athletes.

It was indeed a historical moment when Dr Matesa was unanimously appointed as the representative of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in the Foundation Board of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). At WADA, Dr Matesa contributed immensely towards the Code of the organization – ensuring an equal world of sports, where all athletes can compete in a doping-free sporting environment.



## A LEADER WITH A SPIRIT OF A SPORTSMAN...

Dr. Zlatko Mateša, PhD, is the 6th Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia & current President of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce - Croatian Olympic Committee. He was the longest serving Prime Minister of Croatia in the 90s of the last century. He has recently been awarded European Order of Merit Award for his contributions to sport and the Olympic Movement. Moreover, Dr. Matesa is an author of a number of books and the honorary consul of the Republic of Mongolia in Croatia.

Dr. Mateša completed his undergraduate studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb in 1974. He passed the bar exam in 1978 and earned his Master's Degree in 1990, again from the University of Zagreb. Dr.

Mateša received his PhD at the Beijing Sport University in 2009.

Over the years, Dr. Mateša held many distinguished positions in both private and public sectors, including government. He was the Director of Legal Affairs, and then Assistant General Director at different companies within the portfolio of the Croatian oil giant, INA. From 1992 to 1993, he served as Head of the Croatian Agency for Restructuring and Development, from 1993 to 1995 he was a Minister in the Croatian Government, and in 1995 he became the Prime Minister of Croatia.

As Prime Minister, Dr. Matesa's contribution in rebuilding Croatia – literally brick by brick – had indeed been most