



PRESENTATION TO THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE IN ADDITION TO WRITTEN SUBMISSION - National Sport and Recreation Amendment Bill (2006) - Regarding the Sports Horse

Although this opportunity to address this committee is afforded to all spheres of the public, I regret that so many of the sports bodies have not made use of this opportunity to identify themselves with the Committee .

I thank the Chair and his committee for the opportunity to speak to my submission as a member of the public with an interest in the Development Aspect of the Equestrian Sport.

Since listening yesterday, I understand that I too will benefit from Parliament's protection of speech within this house. Therefore I am prepared to give further identification as to my background within this sport.

Firstly I am a parent of a child that was competitive in this sport and achieved her WP Colours. I am also acquainted to other achievers in the sport referring to SASCOC's interest in "high performance sport".

I also acted as the Chairperson for The South African Pony Club in the WC and presently am a representative of their National Development Portfolio.


However, I must reiterate that this submission is from my personal perspective as a "nobody" within this sport. As a "nobody" I will have no fear of the elected representatives within the South African Equestrian Council. This supposed representative Council for the Sports Horse, excluding Polo and Racing Horse, having been created due to the directive of the National Assembly.



I would like my friend to introduce himself to this committee, he has been my supporter and friend for some years(Verbal submission)... has been involved with horses since a young man and is knowledgeable in show jumping, breeding and racing. He is here to confirm in terms of his experience that NOTHING has changed since 1994 and even since the new legislation and guide lines in 2002. The people within the top ranks of the sport have not altered at all everything is the same as pre 1994, Legislation has not contribute to transformation or equity in any way that can be accounted for at this point.

Mrs Ashton and I are both simply representatives from the ground, and really desire for any legislation to be effective and be accountable, so that there will be a difference in the sport we see in the near future.

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The Equestrian sport is very divided, although they all have one main common denominator and that is the HORSE itself. There is another common denominator, that I see, and that is, there is as little representivity, transformation and as much "window dressing" going on in this sport as there maybe in rugby, cricket and other sporting bodies.

Within the newly formed Council, there is the wearing of multiple hats throughout the horse organizations. This practice contaminates. Even members of SASCOC will be aware of the compromise that exists when there are members of more than one inter-acting organizations. The duplication of role players within the sport and it's representatives is not conducive to developing the playing fields, but rather limits it instead. Specifically, I believe no member should hold office in any organization for more than 2(two) terms. One must believe that the organization will grow and develop with new blood and new ideas at all times. The work achieved by those in their 2 terms should be easily recognizable and strong enough for new blood to build upon. This is a constitution issue.

Another aspect of "Constitutions" of Civil organizations and those of the SAEC should be clear dispute resolutions in order for either SASCOC or the Minister to intervene in the case of dispute. Specifically in terms of equality, here both the Minister and SASCOC should remain vigilant.

It has become clear to me by the questions asked on this floor, that our Sport is in urgent need of a "Master Plan" in terms of Transformation. I believe that together with the support of the Minister, SASCOC and all other tiers of Government, should they appoint at Regional levels and develop capacity of their own staffing, that accountable and visible transformation will be achieved. On the side, I do have one major concern and I believe that the ANC Youth League and others have referred to it, and that SASCOC is focused on "High Performance" sport only. That it is not a Statutory body - and it may be necessary to ensure that the Minister is clear as to the very desire of this Act and not too many ambiguous and poor clarity is given to the terms within this Act.

The Minister and SASCOC, too need to ensure that the legislation that can support their goal is used to its full. EG.:

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT RELATING TO THIS POLICY

- Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999 (PFMA))
- Sports Commission Act, 1998 (Act No. 109 of 1998)
- National Sport and Recreation Act, 1998 (Act No. 110 of 1998)
- Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act No. 55 of 1998)
- SA Institute for Drug-Free Sport Act, 1997 (Act No. 14 of 1997)
- South African Boxing Act, 2001 (Act No. 11 of 2001)
- Skills Development Act, 1998 (Act No. 97 of 1998).



SASCOC really needs to have the capacity to ensure that checks and balances are maintained, in order to ensure that past and whatever future legislation is to be formulated in terms of :

- safety issues - Section 6 8(b)
- education and training needs - Section 7 (a-d)
- proportion of funding that must be used towards development - Section 10 12 (b)
- colours - Section 11 13 (a) & (b)
- guidelines or policies for the promotion of equity, representivity and redress in sport and recreation - Section 13A (a) & (b)

so that the real growth and people on the ground in this sport can develop and benefit...from the efforts and emphasis that is placed in terms of legislation in the sport.

This Amendment is in line with previous legislation and related legislation. Our main concern is that whatever legislation is put in place, if there is no capacity or management and accountability of it's implementation in terms of SASCOC and the Minister and their relationship with the SPORTS world, then the legislation becomes sterile.

For example, the make up of the newly created "representative" body - that is the "voice" for the Sports Horse.....South African Equestrian Council. This is made up of the following:

Members of SAEC:

- Endurance Ride Association of South Africa
- Equestrian Saddle Seat Association of South Africa
- Equestrian Tentpegging Association of South Africa
- Polocrosse Association of South Africa
- South African Pony Club
- South African National Equestrian Federation (SANEF - Dressage Jumping Driving, Eventing, Showing Equitation, Vaulting)
- South African Reining Association

Where are the many others, that may need developing in order to "qualify" to have representation? Those such as:

- 1) Hunting
- 2) Boeresport/ Commando (SA Riding)
- 3) Association of South African Riding Schools
- 4) Trekking/Trail Riding/Tourism
- 5) Breeding Societies

- 6) Database - Parentage and progress of all horses and ponies
- 7) Western Horse Society
- 8) SARDA (Disabled) under DISSA
- 9) Instructors and Teaching Inter schools
- 9) Farrier Association

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I can quote specifics in terms of the "Resolution on Transformation" where there is little or no delivery in terms of " Members to participate honestly and with integrity, through their local, regional and national representatives" as well as only nominal progress in terms of the Equestrian World in " Sustainable and long-lasting change is too slow and needs to be accelerated through both voluntary and compulsory means to achieve measurable, effective and sustainable transformation."

SASCOC together with the Minister REALLY NEEDS TO FOCUS ON GUIDE LINES ALREADY IN PLACE at a NATIONAL level and NOW BRING IT DOWN FOR DELIVERY AT A REGIONAL LEVEL !

Eg.: "The General Assembly calls upon the Minister, provincial and local authorities and national federations to put together a national strategic plan with informed set goals, time frames and realistic outcomes together with a transformation charter to bind all role players in pursuit of these objectives" Where are there examples of this change?



I wish to bring the Chairman and his committee's attention to the lack of reporting on transformation in the sport, why is this? I think the answer, I will demonstrate with showing a simple magazine....there simply is NO TRANSFORMATION for the Media to report on !

Refer to:

Farmer's Weekly - Horse Power Insert August 2006

WPHS News review August 2006

HQ Issue 32

Equestria Programme for 2005

In the Equestrian Sport, this SA Equestrian Council has limited their membership on a National basis and have not attempted to grow regional representation at all, nor develop periphery horse sports people in order that they may play a part on this Council. The Council itself, has not attempted to display any " promotion of equity, representivity and redress in sport and recreation"SO IN REALITY NOTHING HAS CHANGED.

The legislation is all available however, there does not seem to be a specific body in place to monitor and ensure that the intent of this legislation is served. SASCOC should ensure that it has the capacity to deliver meaningful transformation and equity.



Specific regard should be given by SASCOC and the Minister of Sport to
RESOLUTION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF LOTTERY FUNDS TO SPORT AND RECREATION (General Assembly 2002)

- 1. Is allocated in such a way that it achieves the objectives of development and transformation in a systematic way in consultation**(The integrity within consultation process - is presently made up of "window dressing" which is unacceptable and needs to be addressed) **with sport federations and recreation organizations.**
- 2. Is allocated to promote and implement education and training for the people who make this sector work namely the thousands of volunteers.**(Little evidence of this area being addressed with any benefits to the growth of the sport of any value placed on the "thousands of volunteers" - none of which involved transformation or equity within the sport at this stage, as far as my basic research in the matter)

TOO MUCH FOCUS HAS BEEN PLACED IN THESE AREAS:

- 3. Is allocated to enhance performance at the elite level through our teams participating at major international events, particularly the Commonwealth, All Africa, Olympic, Paralympic, World Student and World Games in a systematic and coordinated way.**(The high focus attention to this particular aspect should now be monitored in such a way, that should there be no tangible delivery at grass-roots - only accountable funding should be approved - "as improving levels of mass participation and high performance sport. SRSA 2003 Funding Policy)" Focus should be on "levels of mass participation" Eg. Macro sports bodies. Monitored under strict accountable processes as already legislated - the implementation of these to be clearly transparent and at the fore-front of the achievement disclosure.

- 4. The foundation of sport and recreation is able to deliver through infrastructure for administration.** Serious representation and transparency needs to be evident within all Macro Sports Bodies to ensure equity and transformation at executive levels and opportunities for "grass roots" involvement should be a major criteria.

The General Assembly further resolved that the distribution of grants from the Lottery and any future sports pools should be undertaken annually by the SA Sports Commission to ensure sustainable development of sport and recreation. This link needs more user friendly and strict monitoring, by personnel committed to the criteria's set out in terms of legislation.

The General Assembly further requested a more serious commitment from all layers of Government to make more realistic resources available to sport and recreation This clearly requires SASCOC to play it's role in terms of existing legislation and to ensure that there is delivery within a reasonable timeframe on the goals set out.

A simple solution here would be in relationship with the Public Finance Management Act 1 of 1999/Skills Development Act 1998, Employment Equity Act 1998, SAQA and also to ensure that SARS is pro-active in the legislation

available to ensure that all of this legislation is playing an active role in terms of the Equestrian Sport. Why these particular Acts & Government Departments?

This is due to the enormous amount of manpower that is involved with the Horse that goes unaddressed and unrecognized in this sport.

It should be noted from my submission that as this "sport" involves some skill and much horsemanship knowledge and the horse itself, there is even more legislation that is applicable eg. Animal Cruelty and Welfare as well. The Human Resources and the sport's contribution to the economy is also an area that needs to be identified.



FINALLY, AS PEOPLE ON THE GROUND IN THIS SPORT, WE LOOK FORWARD TO CLEAR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGISLATION IN PLACE WITH SASCOC, LEADING AND GUIDING THE WAY FORWARD, WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO:

- any funding from government should be related to accountable "own fund raising" efforts.
- Commercial Sponsorship should be monitored closely, in terms of the guidelines laid down in this legislation.
- Colours should only be granted when equivalent, sustainable effort is made in terms of the sport directed by their Council and the "TOP RIDERS" themselves.
- Special attention should be focused on local delivery and support of suitable riding grounds and necessary infrastructure.
- Education and Certificate training of all involved in the sport.
- Consolidation of "Development" efforts of the Racing World should not be limited to just the Racing aspect of the Thoroughbred Horse, as this breed is also used in the Sports Horse and the same knowledge base of Horsemanship is required, whatever and where ever the Horse exists in our modern society.

Presented by: Mrs L. Ashton