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PC Sport & Recreation  
13 October 2006

P.O. BOX 678  
Klerksdorp  
2570  
21 August 2006

Ntombekhaya Mbuqe  
The Committee Secretary  
Portfolio Committee on  
Sport and Recreation

Fax: (021) 403 – 8231/2808

Dear Madam,

**Comment: Transformation of Sport in South Africa**

Personal History

My high school career was at St. Barnabas College in Bosmont, Johannesburg. As a young sportsman, I was exposed to the Transvaal High School Sports Association a body representing schools in "coloured" communities. Later I studied education at the Rand College of Education where I majored in Physical Education. Later I returned to my old school where I coached under the U.S.S.A.S.A. umbrella body. Currently, based in Klerksdorp, at St. Conrad's College, I am one of a number of coaches and sports people trying to develop a structure for sport in particular soccer, in the area.

Introduction

The structures that are going to come under international scrutiny over the forthcoming four years are obviously our national soccer development programmes. All efforts to organize, select and develop soccer will be laid before the world to see, this by 2009. For this reason we need to develop this national sport in such a way that it resembles a tier structure from the PSL down to under 6. Basically any child registered to play soccer, at any school, must have a path to the PSL, mapped out. Hence the target for a national sports policy should begin at schools.

The following must then be considered.

- Fields
- Equipment
- First Aid
- Transport
- League fixtures
- Trained coaches
- Provincial champions/National Champions/International Tournaments

Fields

We still have schools in that do not have sports fields! This needs to be addressed urgently, as we cannot develop any sports policy without basic infrastructure.

Considering that this might not always be possible, ensuring that each community has a facility is the next best thing. This would also entail, nets, correctly marked field and clean change rooms and ablutions.

Currently, many communities are using what fields exist in their respective communities, but the one decent area eventually gets monopolized by specific groups or games are played late resulting in a number of safety and security issues.

Equipment

Learners need text books in order to learn. So too if they are to play sport they need equipment. Now the old adage would recommend that just a ball be given. I would then ask if any league, cup or international game has ever been played without a kit, soccer boots, a referee and of cause a proper FIFA regulation ball. It is imperative that we move away from the 'lets just' mentality when we speak about our schools as this is where the interest gets lost when there is no resemblance to what learners see on television – 'the dream'.

First Aid

Who is responsible for a learner, on a neutral ground, when he is knocked unconscious by a clash of heads? How many educators are equipped to deal with such instances? How many learners leave after sport, limping only to return two days later with a cast on his/her leg?

These are situations that happen daily at school sports where the important, first aid preparedness, is missing. It is time that we trained members of the community to fulfill these roles at all sports activities in our communities. Not only would they be trained in first aid but also in the prevention of AIDS, healthy living and basic nutrition. This will result in these people being role models for the youth whilst also aiding adults with their basic health needs.

It will not be a good impression when during the world cup we see school boy rugby advertised on the pay channel and not school boy soccer.

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say, that this includes the best school in the country.

These are statistics that we need to log as this is what drives learners to become where the best school in the country will be crowned. This will automatically give the country the top nine schools in the country. Now surely some international might want to award prizes to the victorious schools?

This will no doubt get those and other schools invited to international school



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Re: CC:

COMMENT: TRANSFORMATION OF SPORT.

HEREWITH PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED

A PERSONAL COMMENT OF TRANSFORMATION  
OF SPORT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THANK YOU

*S. Moore*