

**MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS CONFEDERATION AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (SASCOC) HELD ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011, PRETORIA.**

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Ladies and gentlemen of the Media and representatives of various federations, thank you for heeding our call and joining us on this occasion when we announce the outcomes of the meeting of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation South Africa held in Pretoria with the entire South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) Board. The Meeting was a sequel to a courtesy meeting that took place in November 2010 with the President and the Chief Executive Officer of SASCOC. In that meeting we agreed to have a follow up meeting with a view to meet the entire SASCOC Board in order for us to receive an overarching report on the strategic areas, future plans and common areas for collaboration. The Ministry also convened the meeting with a view to present the Ministry of Sport and Recreation South Africa's Road Map underscoring the following key strategic success factors:

- Transformation
- School Sport
- Recreation
- Mass participation
- Institutional mechanisms
- Funding

The Meeting received the presentations mentioned above from both parties. Evidently there was a groundswell of the convergence of views on key strategic priorities in the presentations. This is a welcome development as it provides a clear indication that the early involvement of SASCOC in the evolution of the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa Delivery Framework and the Road Map to Optimal Performance and Functional Excellence is yielding the desired results. This was also indicative of the seriousness with which SASCOC viewed its

role in the context of the Department of Sport and Recreation transformation and development trajectory. We will leverage on this collaboration as we re-orientate the functioning and performance of the Department of Sport and Recreation in South Africa. We have agreed to maintain this momentum and escalate it as we prepare for Provincial and National Sport and Recreation Izindaba.

The meeting between Sport and Recreation South Africa and SASCOC covered a wide range of issues and reached crucial decisions on the following success factors.

### **Transformation**

Sixteen years since apartheid was dislodged from power and replaced with a democratically elected government, South Africa is still beset by inequalities, uneven development in Sport and Recreation. The meeting agreed that we move swiftly by ensuring that we embark on a broad consultative process that will involve the entire nation in a national and robust debate on transformation that will culminate in a transformation blue print for the country. SASCOC have already produced a transformation charter which will be incorporated in our process and we believe will enrich the final product arising from the consultative process.

In concrete terms we agreed that:

- A transformation audit will first be conducted and concluded before May 2011.
- There will only be one Charter (One Country! One Charter!) for all and the process of arriving at the envisioned Charter will be led by the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa.

- The Department of Sport and Recreation will develop a strategic perspective document that retraces the strides that have been made as part of transformation since 19194 to date.

We wish to emphasize that this will be a highly interactive and intensively consultative process that will involve the broadest sections of our community including you ladies and gentlemen of the Media. This process have various sign posts ranging from Provincial Sport and Recreation Izindaba and culminating in the adoption of a transformation charter in the National Sport and Recreation Indaba to take place in May/June 2011

### **School Sport**

The meeting acknowledged the need to build a strong foundation through which we can nurture a pool of talented young persons and army of youth fit and ready to compete at the global stage. Our point of departure is that we view schools as the nurseries and incubators for young talent and youth development programmes. For this reason we informed SASCOC that we have had a productive and forward looking meeting with the Department of Basic Education at which we agreed to develop a national framework for school sport delivery that we will launch at a joint MINMEC of Sport and Recreation and of Basic Education and later for submission to the Cabinet. SASCOC have also agreed to work with our Directorate for School Sport in ensuring that our plans and school sport structures are aligned and geared to make immediate impact in rural and township schools.

Given the need to fast-track the training of teachers in order for them to be enabled to impart the skills gained to the students, we have undertaken to convene an urgent meeting with teacher unions with a

view to impress upon the teachers the importance of them wholeheartedly participating and joining hands with us in creating a vibrant culture of sport and recreation in our schools. We will outline our plans to the teachers with a view to ensure that the sector transmits the same message and that we all drive school sport from the same workbook.

### **Community Sport and Provincial Sport Academies**

SASCOC concurs with the Ministry of Sport and Recreation South Africa on the urgent need for the Academies to strengthen community clubs. A process that must be organic in nature in that it will allow for the development of local clubs and support activities such as competitions, from local, district, provincial and national spheres, in a pyramid fashion that will reach a crescendo in a national event to celebrate quality and excellence. We agreed that the Sport Academies must be a centre of community activity and rid themselves of the perception of being elitist bodies.

We have also agreed that the Academies are an important pedestal for the training of coaches. The Training the Trainer model is an important model and correct approach that will yield immediate results whilst we are working on a long-term plan of curriculum reform with the relevant Government Departments.

We have presented to SASCOC our concept of Youth Camps and we have agreed that this will be accommodated and articulated in the plans going forward.

SASCOC also informed us that they will ensure that these Academies are re-oriented and that there are issues of transparency and good corporate governance that SASCOC will be taking up with two provinces where disciplinary action will be taken.

The academies must be so well positioned in order for them to readily absorb talent from schools and nurture it for increased participation on a national and global stage. We have agreed that the MECs will also work with the National Sport Science Council to investigate the possibility of unlocking talent and enhancing the performance of young athletes, with a particular focus on nutrition, positive behavior, regularity of exercise during season and off season.

Our aim is to create and promote an Olympic movement that will, as it gets rolled out from grass root level, spread like a wild fire culminating a in national events Olympics.

### **Provincial Sport Councils and National Sport Council**

The meeting noted that the position of the Department of Sport and Recreation South Africa is that we support the establishment of local, district, and provincial sport councils. The reason for the establishment of these structures precipitated by the urgent task to integrate and coordinate our campaigns, projects and implementation plans at all spheres of government, flawlessly. In order to achieve success and results in these areas we need to create collaborative programmes and support the creation of grass roots sports councils from bottom up, that will continue to represent the interest of communities in dire need of service delivery in the sport and recreation arena. Hence the meeting resolved that Members of Provincial Executives (MECs), working closely and together with SASCOC must as a matter of urgency embark on a nation-

wide campaign to create these structures in all the provinces and heighten consciousness and awareness about their existence and role.

At the National sphere of Government we are in conversation with SASCOC with regards to the political and strategic necessity of setting up a National Sport Council. At the moment we have agreed to put the decision of establishing a National Sport Council in abeyance. At this juncture our energies and focus are directed at strengthening SASCOC's capacity to carry out its mandate and fulfill its commitments as outlined in the delivery framework to which we are all committed.

#### **NATIONAL SPORT AWARDS**

As we have in the recent past ladies and gentlemen of the Media pronounced our plan to re-introduce the National Sport Awards, we are delighted that we have agreed with SASCOC that our Department and SASCOC will jointly organise the inaugural National Sport Awards during the month of May or June 2011. Working together with officials from our Department we will organise a world class event and a razzmatazz that will be transparent and fair to all the sport-loving people in South Africa.

SASCOC will also consider the manner in which the Provincial Sport Awards have been organized and, together with the MECs devise an acceptable procedure for each Province going forward.

#### **ATHLETICS SOUTH AFRICA, CRICKET SOUTH AFRICA, MARTIAL ARTS AND POWER BOAT**

SASCOC briefed the meeting on the current state of affairs at Athletics South Africa. We noted the report and will await the outcomes of the investigations and arbitration results. However, as mentioned in the

meeting that we expect federations to uphold principles of good corporate governance and transparency in the conduct of their business and administration. In this connection we agreed with SASCOC that our business is not to manage the Federations and we are not a crisis management team and we will not be reduced into one by self-seeking individuals that have no regard to national interest, honour and pride. Federations must get their houses in order and also ensure that they communicate to the Media in a manner that shows that they respect the people of South Africa and our government.

We will continue to support our teams at all times, however we need the leadership and management of Federations to be united, caring, professional and organised. We must all remember that sport is a national asset and will guard jealously against the abuse and mismanagement of this national asset and implore our people to do the same.

### **International events and campaigns**

SASCOC is part of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation Magnificent Fridays and we have agreed to continue with this campaign to drum up public support for all our teams embarking on international campaigns such as the Proteas we will be sending off this afternoon with blessings from the President Zuma. We wish them well in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

We must maintain this momentum through to *Amantombazane*, the Netball Team's Participation in the Netball World Championship in Singapore in July and of course the grand finale will be throwing the entire nation behind the Springboks as they defend their World Cup Championship in September New Zealand.

We have committed to SASCOC that we will set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee and inform the Cabinet of the plans for the hosting of the

International Olympic Committee (IOC) Conference in Durban, in July 2011.

We also take this opportunity to note that the Confederation of African Football have awarded the South African Football Association the hosting rights of the Africa Cup Nations in 2017. I will be inviting the leadership of SAFA to brief the Ministry and later governments on the implications of this award.

Please allow me to take this opportunity, to on behalf of the Ministry of Sport and Recreation express our condolences to former South African junior lightweight and welterweight champion, the legendary Nkosana “Happy Boy” Mgxaji who sadly passed away last week. We pay Tribute to this gallant Mdantsane-born son of the soil and the giant of the Orient Theatre who will be laid to rest to this coming Saturday. May his soul rest in peace.

In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, we take this opportunity to thank the President of SASCOC and his Board as well as all the ladies and gentlemen of the Media for your attendance and interest in these matters of national.

The end.