

PROPOSAL ON RUGBY TRANSFORMATION ISSUES

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12 June 2007

The current state of South African Rugby administration is questionable, given the descriptions provided by the national and provincial leadership of these structures to the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee of Sport. The national leadership claims that it has transformation targets in place, but reality does not reflect this; their explanation is that the national leadership lacks the powers and authority to intervene effectively at provincial and "Super" franchise level. On the other hand the provincial and "Super" franchise leadership structures claim that they are liaising with the national leadership.

The public at large sees that rugby has not transformed in the past 13 years, or transformation has moved at too slow a pace. It has also emerged that some, if not all, of the franchise administrations are not Employment Equity and BEE compliant.

I strongly recommend that the Portfolio Committee, the South African Rugby Union, the provincial and franchise structures, should commit to speed up transformation. The Department of Sport should facilitate a process that brings all stakeholders together to chart a way forward. In order to achieve tangible and implementable outcomes we need to establish with certainty which transformation issues require attention. It would therefore require the appointment of an independent two-or-three person committee to investigate the transformation, equity and BEE status of the entire rugby administration. The findings that flow from such an investigation could then be brought to a rugby indaba where all stakeholders can reach consensus on the specific necessary steps that need to be taken and set clear timeframes for implementation.

If we do not take these steps we will meet again here next year, as we have done every year for 13 years now, asking: "Where is the transformation?"