TRANSFORMATION IN SA SPORT
Scoreboard not in government’s favour

A REPORT BY DR. EUGENE BRINK EN JOHAN NORTJE
CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Olympic Committee and United Nations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANC’s policy on sport before and after 1994</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-Economic Landscape</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools and sporting facilities</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public sporting facilities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quotas and public opinion</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Governance in sport and recreation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Oregan Hoskins, after abruptly resigning as president of the South African Rugby Union (Saru) during a meeting of provincial rugby bosses, questioned government's transformation policy. According to him, players of colour will always be “thrown in at the deep end” due to government’s irresponsible and ineffective approach to broadening participation in the sport. “Rugby is part and parcel of South African society [but] there isn’t a commitment on the part of government to genuinely tackle the development of the sport. It’s all well and good saying that you should transform the national team and transform the franchise teams but that’s not going to work, it’s never going to work,” he told Eyewitness News.

These are very strong, and indeed ironic, words and misgivings from the man who stood at the helm of Saru for a decade and championed the cause of transformation in rugby with messianic zeal. In fact, it is an extremely damning indictment and about-turn.

Hoskins is not alone, however. In an interview with the Afrikaans Sunday newspaper Rapport, former Protea cricketer Daryll Cullinan, who runs his own cricket academy, voiced similar concerns and criticism. He said playing cricket was enormously expensive and therefore out of reach for most black people in the country. He further said another major barrier to broadening the appeal of cricket is soccer’s historical popularity in the black community. He also wondered why it took 25 years for Temba Bavuma to become the first black top-order batsman in the national side. He noted that it also took Afrikaners a fairly long time to improve their cricketing skills despite dilapidated and inadequate facilities and equipment. They told him that nobody from Cricket South Africa (CSA) had offered to help.

A growing amount of criticism, not least from the public, has been levelled at government since former sports minister Fikile Mbalula announced in April 2016 that he revoked the privileges of Saru, CSA, Netball SA and Athletics SA to host international tournaments for failing to promote transformation in these respective sports. This ban has since been repealed by his successor, Thulas Nxesi, but the debate and controversy around transformation and quotas are not over yet.

This report attempts to examine the political, socio-economic, managerial and development context of contemporary transformation in South African sport. It aims to highlight the general difficulties faced by South Africans in participating and excelling in sport, but a particular focus will fall on the above-mentioned sports that are being singled out for more stringent and even punitive measures.

Firstly, the report surveys the local and international politics surrounding sport in South Africa since the Apartheid era. This includes, inter alia, the ANC’s views on racism in sport over the last few decades. Secondly, the corporate governance of sport in South Africa will be briefly examined.

Moreover, the socio-economic landscape of South Africa as a vital determinant of sporting participation and success will be outlined. Schools as springboards of either sporting success or failure as well as the state of sporting facilities around the country will come under scrutiny as well.

Quantitative research regarding the public’s views on quotas in sport will be discussed.
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND UNITED NATIONS

From the 1950s to the 1990s the international community imposed a wide variety of sanctions and embargos against South Africa, as a means to force the country to abandon its policy of Apartheid. One of the main instruments used by international actors to change South Africa’s sporting policy of discrimination and racial segregation during this era, was the sports boycott imposed against the country’s sporting entities. Because of steps taken by the United Nations (UN) and International Olympic Committee (IOC), South Africa was expelled from many sports governing bodies and excluded from participating international events. In due course, this contributed to the end of sport segregation in the country.

James Emmett points out that it was the International Table Tennis Federation that first broke its ties with the all-white South African Table Tennis Union. Emmett explains that in time a domestic non-racial administrative body, the South African Sports Association (SASA), was established during the late 1950s. Early SASA attempts to include black sportsmen and -women proved unsuccessful, and the organisation therefore started to pursue the prospect of getting international sports federations, in particular the IOC, to isolate its South African affiliates which were at the time associated with white-only players. Other affiliates later followed.

The first official international sanctioning of South Africa’s racial policies occurred through the IOC’s expulsion of the country from the 1964 Olympic Games held in Tokyo. It was announced on 18 August 1964 that “the IOC demanded from the South African National Olympic committee that there be a change in policy regarding racial discrimination in sports.” The Olympic Charter stated that no form of discrimination was to be allowed, and the South African policy clearly contravened the charter. Shortly thereafter, in 1970, the IOC withdrew its recognition of the South African Olympic Committee during the 69th session of the IOC, with 35 votes to 28 and with 3 abstentions.

Afterwards, the pressure to compel the National Party to abandon its racial policies with regard to sport intensified, and the country was banned from many sporting events, while many countries boycotted events in which South Africa participated. For instance, more than 20 African countries withdrew from the 21st Summer Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976 in protest over New Zealand's sporting associations with South Africa.

The UN was one of the most important role-players that eventually influenced South Africa’s sports policies. Anti-apartheid activists and associations relied heavily on the UN for mediation, leadership and involvement to end unfair discrimination, through activities by bodies such as the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid (a committee set up by the UN to report on and campaign against apartheid), the Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) as well as the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid.

One of the initial strategies the Committee employed was the Register of Sports Contacts. The idea behind the registry was to discourage sportspersons from foreign countries from participating in South African sports events, by publishing a semi-annual list of sports contacts who had visited the country during the 1980s to 1990. Between September 1980 and December 1990 the registry showed that 3,593 sportsmen and women had violated the sports ban. Even though the registry in and of itself had no official formal of penalty, it did create an incentive to sever links with South African sporting federations.

At the International Conference on Sports Boycott held in Paris in collaboration with the Committee, however, cricketing countries which had disciplined cricketers for playing in South Africa, were commended. Rugby and cricket associations were encouraged to refrain from having dealings with South Africa, although it is not clear whether this was a result of the UN registry.

But undoubtedly, the most prominent step taken by the UN was the establishment of the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports on 10 December 1985, at the 40th session of the General Assembly. It was signed by 70 states and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as resolution 40/64 and came into force on 3 April 1988. The International Convention followed upon the International Declaration Against Apartheid in Sport, which was adopted by the UNGA on 14 December 1977 under resolution 32/105.

The Convention determines that member states must give their unqualified support for the Olympic principle that no discrimination be allowed on the grounds of race, religion or political affiliation and that merit should be the sole criterion for participation in sports activities.

Member states also agree that the term Olympic principle shall mean the principle that no discrimination be allowed on the grounds of race, religion or political affiliation, and member states will try to ensure universal compliance with the Olympic principle of non-discrimination. The actions taken by the IOC and UN were paramount in bringing an end to the unfair practices of the country’s sport’s policy during
the 1960s to the 1980s. Most importantly, developments that resulted from the actions taken by the UN and IOC brought the South African sporting landscape to the attention of the world. It is ironic that in 2017, civil society now has to take similar steps to stop “transformation” in sport.

ANC’S POLICY ON SPORT BEFORE AND AFTER 1994

The ANC’s sport policy during the boycott and the way it is currently enunciated, are also of note when it comes to the boycott. The purpose of the boycott, at least from the official ANC policy standpoint, was that sport and politics should be separated. This view was best expressed in a paper prepared for the United Nations’ Unit on Apartheid on 25 May 1971 by ANC stalwart Abdul Minty.

In the document, the ANC was quoted saying that “human beings should not be willing partners in perpetuating a system of racial discrimination. Sportsmen have a special duty in this regard in that they should be first to insist that merit, and merit alone, be the criterion for selecting teams for representative sport. Indeed non-discrimination is such an essential part of true sportsmanship that many clubs and international bodies have express provisions to this effect.”

The paper goes on to explain why racial policies of any kind have no place in sport, and notes that “all links with racist bodies should be abolished until sport inside South Africa is conducted on the basis of merit alone and not of colour.

The ethical ethos claimed by the ANC during the boycott campaign has drastically changed since the party came to power in 1994, however. There has been a notable shift in the organisation’s sport policy from the above remarks they made during the previous regime. Their ethos is now tainted with racial undertones and underpinnings of social transformation in official statements.

Support for this position can be found in, amongst others, the 50th National Conference of the ANC. The conference resolution called for government legislation to be put in place which will allow the minister to intervene proactively in sport to serve as a vehicle for achieving national goals.

As a result, sport in the national context was no longer seen as tool to build a non-racial democratic sporting industry, but rather as a vehicle to achieve social transformation. Markedly, an acceleration in the interventionist attitude of the governing party was noted at the 51st National Conference. Resolutions 45 to 52 called for, amongst others, “government to play a central and, where necessary, interventionist role in the transformation of sports and recreation.” The 2012 conference called for quotas as a means to attain sporting excellence.

Moreover, militant racial undertones can be observed in a statement issued in 1998, in which the ANC described the national rugby and cricket teams as “lily-white teams”, and emphasised that “the ANC remains committed to its objective of transforming South African society, and sports is no exception.”

In addition, former sport and recreation parliamentary committee chairperson Butana Komphela, in an interview with the newspaper Sunday Times in February of 2005, said that he knew nothing about sport but that he knew the ANC’s policy position about sport. Statements such as these are not isolated remarks by individuals, but are clearly representative of the ANC’s race-centred policies and aggressive intervention in sport. Another example that illustrates the case in point, is former sport and recreation minister Makhenkesi Stofile, who held the opinion that “[sport administrators should] sacrifice winning in the name of transformation.”

These comments illustrate that government’s involvement in sport is of an aggressive and radical nature and that government does not have the players’ or the public’s interests at heart and that it does not pursue social consistency, as it sometimes claims. The then Minister of Sport and Recreation, Fikile Mbalula, a career politician, has for instance shown his lack of understanding of sport by demoralising the Bafana Bafana national soccer team for their poor performance in the 2014 African Nations Championship by calling them “a bunch of losers.”

In the current South African political climate it is considered taboo or politically incorrect to question aspects of transformation or racial quotas. Any attempt to assess the mode of transformation or aspects of it has been met with hostile reaction from government. Butana Komphela
has been quoted saying that the constitution requires transformation and that doing away with it, would amount to treason.18 Racial transformation and quota systems for national sport teams have been used interchangeably and it is often asserted that quotas are legitimate, even though the South African Constitution makes no mention of transformation or quotas.

It would seem wise, then, to define what the ANC means by transformation. The government often claims to speak on behalf of the public with regard to the current racial composition of sports teams. Even the courts have expressed this opinion – Judge Ntendeya Mavundla has hinted that South Africans were angry at the lack of transformation in rugby and has stated that transformation was of “national interest”.19

In reality, however, the ANC’s definition of transformation displays ignorance and a lack of understanding of the issue. Former ANC policy chief Joel Netshitenzhe, who was also a regular contributor to the ANC’s newsletter Umnubuntu, for example wrote that transformation entails that all levels of power (state institutions) must be brought under the control of the National Liberation Movement and that “they should reflect in their composition the demographics of the country; and they should owe allegiance to the new order.”20 In others words, the transformation defined by the ANC does not amount to unity or improving society’s ills, but entails the social reengineering of society and is accompanied by a hegemony over institutions through cadre deployment.

### SOCIO-ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

Sport achievements and development usually follow economic achievement and development. This is why developed countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Germany, the US and Great Britain fare better at sport in a general sense than developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Some developing countries that have made great economic strides over the last few decades, such as China, have seen their performances in sport track these achievements. China’s marked improvement, and often also dominance, at the Olympic Games is testament to this.

Of course, the history certain types of sport is also an important factor in how well a particular country stands to perform on the sports field. But there is no question that developed countries have generally fared better in most types of sport in the past. For instance, American athletes have access to state-of-the-art facilities and outstanding coaching, and a person growing up in the US has an exponentially greater chance of becoming a world-class athlete than someone from a country such as Ghana.

The same applies to the situation within different countries, especially those with high disparities in wealth and access to training, coaching and facilities. In this regard, South Africa is one of the prime examples in the world. Although it is a country with huge sport potential, many South African athletes cannot realise their potential, because of scant economic growth and few opportunities. The employment and demographic context in the country will be briefly discussed by way of some examples.

Of the nearly 55 million people in South Africa in 2015, nearly 36 million are aged between 15 and 64. Close to 21 million people in South Africa are economically active, of whom 15 657 000 are employed. Only 10 835 000 are employed in the formal non-agricultural sector and 2 661 000 in the informal non-agricultural sector. Fewer than a million people are employed in the farming sector. The official unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2016 was 27.7%.

The number of currently employed people in South Africa is indeed double the number of employed people in 1994, but the number of people in the country has also surged by roughly 50% since 1994. Although some considerable gains have been made in employment, the ANC itself admitted that far too few people were working.21

When broken down by race, some salient and startling facts arise.

Data from Statistics South Africa reveals that 27.9% of Africans were unemployed in the second quarter of 2016. This is slightly higher than the 1994 figure of 24.7% for this group. The rate for the second half of 2016 – and perhaps also 2017 – will probably be higher, as the economy struggles with growth, and jobs are being shed at an unprecedented rate.22 Even though this accounts for a commensurate increase in their demographic relative and absolute share, this is a very bleak assessment.

The coloured community has fared even worse. Their unemployment rate increased significantly, from 176% in 1994 to 24.4% in 2015. White unemployment has also increased during this period, from 3% in 1994 to 7% in 2015. When the incomes of the respective groups are considered, the picture becomes even drearier.

The annual average household income of Africans jumped from R30 216 in 1994 to R102 641 in 2014 – a rise of 240%. Moreover, these figures include social grants, from which black households have benefited disproportionately more than whites and other racial groups. The annual household income of the coloured community rose by 328% over this
period: from R40 884 to R174 818. The white community’s annual household income rose from an already elevated base by 356%: from R130 262 to R594 614 – the biggest increase of all the major racial groups in the country. This is somewhat ironic, as Africans were by far the prime beneficiaries of legislation and political measures aimed at correcting the wrongs of apartheid; at the same time whites were replaced on a massive scale, especially in the civil service, losing virtually all their political power.

All this points to the fact that the non-white population in South Africa is still, by and large, struggling economically although some big gains have indeed been made. The pitiable state of their employment, their type of employment, the struggling economy and their resultant low absolute and relative incomes do not bode well for their advancement, on merit and on a large scale, in competitive sports.

These figures also explain why black school children are far more malnourished than white and Indian children, a factor which stunts their growth and sporting potential.

In closing, the Department of Sport and Recreation, as the flag-bearer of transformation and the architect of quotas in sport, stated in its Transformation Charter for South African Sport that “the fact that the majority of the country’s people are poor renders sport inaccessible to them.”

SCHOOLS AND SPORTING FACILITIES

It is an established fact that a person’s sporting prowess is largely developed at school level. There are some exceptions, but the rule is that sport stars hail from elite sporting schools where they receive the best possible training, equipment and facilities. The list of superior rugby schools in South Africa also roughly mirrors the best cricket schools. Being elite schools that provide the best sports training and academic instruction in the country, it follows that they mirror the socio-economic makeup of the country to a large extent as well.

Below is the list of the top 20 cricket schools in the country (Powerade First Cricket Rankings, as at 17 November 2015):24

1. St Stithians, Johannesburg
2. Grey College, Bloemfontein
3. Rondebosch Boys’ High School, Cape Town
4. St John’s College, Johannesburg
5. Pretoria Boys High School
6. Glenwood High School, Durban
7. Hoërskool Nelspruit
8. Paarl Gymnasium
9. Pearson High School, Port Elizabeth
10. St Alban’s College, Pretoria
11. Kingswood College, Grahamstown
12. King Edward VII School (KES), Johannesburg
13. Hoërskool Waterkloof, Pretoria
14. Woodridge College, Port Elizabeth
15. Grey High School, Port Elizabeth
16. Hoërskool Menlopark, Pretoria
17. Boland Landbouskool, Paarl
18. Paul Roos Gimnasium, Stellenbosch
19. Clifton High School, Durban
20. Bishops Diocesan College, Cape Town

The top 20 rugby schools are as follows (as recorded on 20 June 2016 and supplied by www.rugby15.co.za):25

1. Paarl Boys High
2. Grey College
3. Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool, Pretoria
4. Paarl Gymnasium
5. Hoër Landbouskool Oakdale, Riversdale
6. Paul Roos Gimnasium
7. Dale College, King William’s Town
8. Hoërskool Monument, Pretoria
9. Glenwood High School, Durban
10. Selborne College, East London
11. Grey High, Port Elizabeth
12. Hoërskool Dr EG Jansen, Boksburg
For instance, whilst 77.5% of public schools in Gauteng have substandard and facilities are very unevenly distributed. The quality of the existing facilities is often dysfunctional.

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) only 57.8% of public schools in the country have sporting facilities. The quality of the existing facilities is often substandard and facilities are very unevenly distributed. For instance, whilst 77.5% of public schools in Gauteng and 75.1% of schools in the Western Cape have sporting facilities, only 40.6% of public schools in the Eastern Cape possess such facilities. If the figures are broken down further, an even more dismal situation emerges.

3 245 out of 5 461 public schools in the Eastern Cape had no sporting facilities in 2015. For the rest, only 1 412 schools had soccer facilities, 164 had cricket facilities, and only 333 had rugby facilities. In KwaZulu-Natal, 3 207 out of 5 861 schools had no sporting facilities. Only 1 591 had soccer facilities and 258 had cricketing facilities; and a mere 111 could boast rugby fields.

Yet again, it needs to be highlighted that this only means that these facilities exist: the standard of the facilities had not been determined and they could range widely in quality. These schools’ ability to attract qualified coaches in the various types of sport is also severely restricted. Taking into account the numbers of black learners who attend these schools and the demographic weight of these provinces (with the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal being the third and second largest in the country respectively), it follows that much more needs to be done to cultivate large numbers of excellent black rugby and cricket players at school level.

Unfortunately, government now wants to reap what it did not sow in the first place.

While the top sporting schools in the country operate on little or no government assistance and are largely funded and supported by the parents, the dysfunctional schools are held ransom by very limited government budgets, militant unions such as the South African Teachers Union (SATU), and absent or unmotivated teachers. Classrooms are overcrowded and the schools try to serve communities plagued by huge socio-economic problems and their attendant social ills, such as drugs, single-parent (or child-led) households and teenage pregnancies.

Many of these schools have tenuous or non-existing links with sports like rugby and cricket. As demonstrated by the above figures regarding the respective sporting facilities, these schools have historically focused on offering sports like soccer (which has always been tremendously popular in the black communities) while shunning rugby and cricket. Conversely, the best schools all have vivid rugby and cricketing histories and the demographic weight of these provinces.

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) only 57.8% of public schools in the country have sporting facilities. The quality of the existing facilities is often substandard and facilities are very unevenly distributed. For instance, whilst 77.5% of public schools in Gauteng

| 13. Helpmekaar Kollege, Johannesburg |
| 14. Hoërskool Nelspruit |
| 15. Hoërskool Outeniqua, George |
| 16. Hoërskool Garsfontein, Pretoria |
| 17. eppe Boys High, Johannesburg |
| 18. Hoërskool Diamantveld, Kimberley |
| 19. Boland Landboukskool |
| 20. Welkom Gimnasium |

These lists highlight the correlation between a supreme sporting school and excelling in a certain type of sport. The likes of Bismarck du Plessis, Jannie du Plessis and Adriaan Strauss attended Grey College. Fanie du Preez, AB de Villiers, Faf du Plessis and Pierre Spies went to Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool. Handré Pollard attended Paarl Gimnasium. Pat Lambie and Ruan Combrinck both attended Michaelhouse. In total, Paul Roos Gimnasium produced the most Springboks (48) with Grey a close second (45) and Bishops third (42).

A striking feature of these institutions is that they are all former Model C, private or Afrikaans schools. Although some of their demographics have certainly changed over the last 20 years, they remain mostly white. Their academic standards are as high as their sporting standards and they have a long history of sporting excellence.

These schools have also produced some fine black talent, of whom promising Protea rookie Kagiso Rabada (St Stithians) is but one example. As former cricket boss Ali Bacher said, when given the opportunity and exposed to the best coaching and systems at school level, black talent will flourish on the sports field. But there are no guarantees in life and many players – whether black or white – attending top schools never advance to the elite level in their sports.

However, most black and coloured children do not attend these schools, or any of those in the top 50. They are mired in dysfunctional government schools that have never produced even one Springbok or Protea player and where everything, from the quality of sporting instruction to facilities, are largely in a decrepit state and deteriorating. It is authoritatively estimated by various sources that 80% of all state-run schools in South Africa are completely dysfunctional.

According to the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) only 57.8% of public schools in the country have sporting facilities. The quality of the existing facilities is often substandard and facilities are very unevenly distributed. For instance, whilst 77.5% of public schools in Gauteng

| 27. Welkom Gimnasium |

The solution is not to punish and demonise well-performing schools through quotas and forcing schools to admit too
many pupils. This will merely exacerbate the problem and lower the general standard of sporting achievement in the country. The answer lies in, amongst others, broad-based socio-economic development, large-scale job creation as well as unfettering the markets and business sector. Poorly performing teachers and principals should be punished, and a moral revival should be begun. On each of these points, government has failed dismally.

Schools are, after all, mere reflections and products of their communities: without community financing and support, a school’s sporting abilities will flounder. All these examples prove that state funding may be necessary but would never be sufficient. Instead of berating them, government should attempt to learn from the handful of schools that generate the bulk of South Africa’s sport stars. In the end, less reliance on government and more self-initiative could be the only solutions to solving the poverty and schooling crises – and to producing more black sport stars.

PUBLIC SPORTING FACILITIES

Central to the discussion on sports development and transformation is the issue of public access – especially by poor communities – to sporting facilities. Fikile Mbalula, then Minister of Sport and Recreation, unequivocally recognised this fact in a speech in 2012: “The successful implementation of the National Sports and Recreation Plan and the subsequent achievement of its goals depend on the availability and accessibility of sport and recreation facilities at local level. There is no question that, for our plan to work, it must be supported by a variety of facilities in both urban and rural areas. That is why the provision of accessible community sport and recreation facilities is one of the key pillars of the National Sports and Recreation Plan.”

Throughout this speech, the minister emphasised the role and duty of local government in constructing sporting infrastructure. Not only is it a moral, economic and social imperative, but also a constitutional obligation. Chapter 7 of the Constitution directs all municipalities “to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities, and (to) ensure the provision of basic services to all communities in a sustainable and equitable manner and (to) promote social and economic development of those communities and residents as well as promoting safe and healthy environment that encourages the involvement of communities and community organisations in all matters of local government including sport, recreation, leisure, arts and culture.”

The construction of more and improved sporting facilities will not only aid the development of sport in poor areas, but it will also boost job creation. Moreover, it is a way to foster communal cohesion and build social trust, and to ameliorate some of the social ills that plague poorer communities in particular, such as drug abuse and crime.

Yet, as with many other constitutional mandates, it is not consistently practiced. The state’s capacity, and often the will, to provide sufficient sport facilities to all communities in South Africa are sadly lacking. This is especially true of the townships and rural areas; indeed, Mbalula lamented this fact in his address. He also highlighted the challenges afflicting the betterment of sporting facilities at local government level:

1. Municipal spatial planning does not make provision for sporting and recreation facilities and other public amenities in an integrated manner to ensure sustainable human settlements.

2. Some municipalities view the provision and management of sport and recreation facilities as the lowest priority in the hierarchy of needs. As a result, they allocate limited financial resources for that purpose.

3. The municipal infrastructure grant of some municipalities is still not used for its intended purpose, to the detriment of sport and recreation infrastructure development.

4. In some (especially rural) areas there are no facilities at all; in others they are not properly maintained. Elsewhere, facilities are over/underutilised or simply vandalised.

5. There is a lack of innovative projects to respond to challenges of scarce resources; there is also a lack of project management skills to ensure the proper implementation of projects. The use of substandard construction material results in poor quality and subsequent high maintenance costs.

6. Long-term leases/agreements in respect of facilities in affluent communities/areas are problematic, as these lead to the exclusion of people in the broader community, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. In addition, some local authorities charge unaffordable fees for use of the facilities. Some facilities are inaccessible due to their location or because authorities refuse entry to certain groups.

Calculating the exact amount of public sporting facilities around the country, and determining the state they are in, is a forlorn task. Apart from the big national stadiums and venues, no comprehensive audit has yet been done with regard to these facilities. The minister promised such an
audit in his 2014 budget speech, but at the time of writing this report, we could not find any indication of it on the department’s website.

Yet, even the most vociferous champions of transformation and racial targets in sports roundly admit that not nearly enough has been done since the advent of democracy to upgrade and expand sporting infrastructure in disadvantaged areas or in the country as a whole. In addition to former Minister Mbalula’s admissions, his director-general Alec Moemi told a parliamentary portfolio committee in 2012 that the department had made multiple visits to the various provinces to inspect sporting facilities. However, the department has little say in the matter of facilities, as most sporting infrastructure is owned by the municipalities. Moemi admitted that the department had by and large been unable to roll out high-quality infrastructure since 1994, with the exception of the 2010 World Cup stadiums – which are obviously inaccessible to the vast majority of South Africans.

This is a serious impediment to developing sport in the country. The department has indeed set ambitious targets and allocated growing amounts of funds to the improvement and expansion of sports facilities over the last few years. But these are yet to bear fruit on a large and significant scale, and there is no guarantee that these interventions will eventually be successful or produce more sport stars.

A further breakdown revealed that 87% of coloured respondents, 94.9% of Indians and 84.3% of whites answered in the affirmative to this question. Coloured and Indian people are therefore, in a relative sense, more dissatisfied with quotas in sport than whites.

The wish of most South Africans of all backgrounds and races is that their country’s sport teams should win and win regularly. This survey proved beyond doubt that they care much less about the racial makeup of the teams. On the whole, quotas are a technical invention meant to use sport to curry political favour. The tightening of racial quotas and the ever more vociferous calls for quotas by cabinet ministers and other politicians have paradoxically accompanied a drop in support for the ANC at the polls. At the very least, this points to the ineffectual, if not pernicious, effect of sporting quotas on the popularity of government and the ANC.

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN SPORT AND RECREATION**

Former sports minister Fikile Mbalula is probably the most controversial person to have ever headed the Department of Sports and Recreation. Instead of fixing the inefficiency and misdirection of the department, he almost immediately after his appointment in 2010 chose to prioritise and champion the complete transformation of sport in South Africa, despite the declining support for racial quotas in national sports teams at the time.

More recently, the Financial Mail also reported on a survey conducted by BMi Sports Marketing during 2015, which emphasised that continued government intervention in sport affairs was the primary cause for concern among the top decision makers in the sports sponsorship industry.

During the 2011/2012 financial year opposition parties raised concerns about travel expenses at former Minister Mbalula’s department, which amounted to more than R35 million. A further R45 million was spent at the 2011 Sports Awards Gala. Another concern was that the auditor-general Terence Nombembe was quoted saying that a “total of 27% and 78% of actual reported performance information relevant to the sport support service and mass participation programmes was not valid” during the period under review.

Following these events, the Public Protector also launched her own investigating into the alleged irregular spending of more than R2 million on flights by the sports minister and his deputy, Gert Oosthuizen. Ignoring the auditor-general’s warnings about the department’s lack of financial control,
Mr Mbahlula’s department continued its lavish spending spree. Even the outrageously large amount spent on the 2011 Sports Awards Gala was overshadowed by the 2013 Sports Awards, which amounted to a cost of R65 million. The maladministration and irregular spending are by no means isolated to the national Department of Sport. During 2011, over R20 million was lost due to corruption and fraud at the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation in North West. Furthermore, the auditor-general’s findings regarding the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation revealed that the department incurred R289 million in irregular expenditure over the 2014/15 financial year. According to media reports the head of the department, Namlha Sipaza, was suspended after trying to bribe an official of the auditor-general.

Under the stewardship of former Minister Fikile Mbalula the South African sporting bodies have become plagued by poor governance, fraud, inefficiency and coercion, with repeated corruption scandals throughout the industry. The most prominent of these is the FIFA corruption case in which it was alleged by US authorities that South African officials supposedly bribed high-ranking FIFA officers for $10-million bonuses, in spite of ASA’s R4 million deficit, added to the financial deterioration of ASA. As a consequence, Leonard Chuene, was replaced by James Evans. Lack of funds and infighting at ASA resulted in, amongst others, the cancellation of the 2013 Soweto Marathon. As of 2014 ASA has been headed by former KwaZulu-Natal Athletics (KZNA) president Alex Skhosana. During Skhosana’s tenure as president of KZNA, the organisation lost millions due to gross negligence on the part of Skhosana. According to Corruption Watch, football, tennis and track and field athletics are all grappling with corruption crises as well.

However, in a case of people in glass houses who shouldn’t be throwing stones, it came to light that in 2013 the Public Protector’s office launched an investigation into claims of maladministration and corruption against the committee after complaints by Sascoc affiliates. The investigation, which started in 2016, is still ongoing. Several other federations had come to blows with Sascoc in the past few years over poor governance too. A well-known Olympic athlete has also complained about poor equipment that was used at the 2016 Rio Games. Furthermore, the M&G Centre for Investigative Journalism, amabhungane, has linked Sascoc president Gideon Sam to allegations of bribery and dodgy tender deals.

Cricket South Africa (CSA) has not escaped dishonesty amongst senior officials either. A KPMG audit report painted a troublesome pictures of the affairs at the governing body. The gist of the report is that CSA’s chief executive officer, Gerald Majola, was guilty of maladministration and corruption. Majola and other members of CSA received bonus payments totalling R4,7 million for South Africa hosting the Indian Premier League (IPL) during 2009. Majola received R1,8 million of this amount.

A hardly happier fate has befallen Boxing South African (BSA). The body has had nine CEOs in the past 15 years. Moffat Qithi, who had served from 2011 to 2013, was suspended and subsequently dismissed after an investigation found him guilty of fraud. He was granted more than R200 000 in bonuses while on suspension for two years, in addition to his salary of more than R1 million per annum, according City Press. Qithi was succeeded by Loyiso Mtya, who was also forced to resign in 2014 after preliminary investigations found him guilty of taking kickbacks as well as negligence. The body is currently headed by Tshokofelo Lejaka, a former chief director of Sports and Recreation. With none of the former CEOs finishing their term in office, it still needs to be seen whether the embattled BSA can turn things around.

The South African Rugby Union (SARU) has had a less than perfect track record when it comes to corporate governance over the past few years. The disciplinary inquiry into former CEO Johan Prinsloo during 2006 and frequent infighting between Springbok coaches and rugby bosses are well documented. Most recently, CEO Jurie Roux has been accused of financial mismanagement during his term as head of the University of Stellenbosch Rugby Club. A preliminary report by KPMG linked Roux to mismanagement in which he “manipulated” financial management systems for millions of rands to favour the rugby programme. The University is now suing Roux for R 32 million. In addition, SARU has reported a loss of R23 million for the 2016 financial year.

The above analysis shows that the South African sporting industry is in a dire crisis, and although the Department of Sport and Recreation is not to blame for all the faults, it is important to note that this non-performing department sets the tone for other sporting bodies and that its failure has a trickle-down effect on the corporate governance of federations.
CONCLUSION

Voluntary participation in sport is no longer considered a mere fun pastime or recreational activity. Sport development at schools is an important part of the healthy development of children, while sport at local and club level strengthens bonds in communities and bolsters social capital when diverse associations meet up for a “friendly game”. Together with the fact that South Africans look at national sports teams as a source of pride and, one could argue, hope (a commodity in scarce supply in recent times), sport development is an imperative that bears cultural relevance as well, undergirding the health of society.

Sport forms an inherent part of the country’s psyche, and as such is an important cultural ingredient. Simply put, sport represents the best in us. Pursuing sport as a career path should be open to all gifted individuals, regardless of race, gender or creed. As should be clear from observations in this report, however, this process is severely undermined by current government policy and actions. In prescribing racial criteria for the selection of players, government’s involvement in sport reflects an imbalanced approach. Rather than investing in the development of sport, especially on an educational level in underdeveloped areas, government squanders its energy on policies that suppress sport development, rather than enhance it.

AfriForum and Solidarity advocates the ending of racial quotas in South African sport, and offers this report in the hope that it will contribute to this end. The only race any athlete should be concerned about, is the race to the finish line.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


22. ibid

23. ibid

