

Goal of soccer bodies is unity

The process of unifying soccer clubs into a single non-racial controlling body recently received a boost when representatives from South Africa's major soccer bodies gathered in Johannesburg for unity talks.

The meeting chaired by Krish Naidoo of the National Sports Congress which convened the talks, was attended by four major soccer bodies in South Africa.

These were the Soccer Association of S.A (SASA), S.A Soccer Federation (SASF), the Football Association of S.A (FASA) and the S.A National Football Association (SANFA).

The four bodies have a combined membership of hundreds of thousands.

The attendance of key figures in the mass democratic movement, COSATU's President Cde Elijah Barayi, Assistant General Secretary Cde Sydney Mufamadi, and the Acting Publicity Secretary of the now banned UDF, Cde Murphy Morobe, underlined the significance of the talks.

Dreams into reality

The talks give hope to what for many is a practically impossible dream of forming a single controlling body under apartheid.

Each body was represented by six delegates and five observers, while the NSC was represented by four delegates and two observers.

Each body's delegation had a full mandate from their respective structures.

The general masses view the talks as a move that will enable the soccer players to form their union, which they publicly talk about but are seemingly hesitant to pursue the matter.

Worker players

Some of the top players are shop stewards at their work places and taking their working class leadership and experiences to the soccer game would eliminate exploitation of the game by capitalists and greedy soccer bosses and put an end to the UN sports boycott busters.

After much deliberations, all bodies resolved to appoint an eight-man commission to investigate and make recommendations on:

- The principle of non-racialism upon which a future single soccer controlling body would operate; and
- The implementation of such principles by a future body.

The commission will consist of two representatives from each of the four bodies. The commission is provisionally scheduled to report back to the four organisations on August 19 at the next meeting in Port Elizabeth which will be convened and chaired by NSC's Krish Naidoo.

Both SASA and SASF last year held separate talks with the African National Congress (ANC) in Harare.



A packed stadium watches an exciting match between Cosmos and Pirates. Many thousands of soccer fans want the soccer associations to form a single, non-racial controlling body.

National Sports Congress looks at mass-based future

UNITY in sports will be on the agenda of the National Sports Congress (NSC) symposium from 15 to 16 July at Witwatersrand University.

Well known sports players and community and trade union leaders will debate various issues which could lead to common ground.

The theme of the conference is "towards a disciplined, healthy sports movement in preparation for a post-apartheid South Africa". At least 23 different codes of sport and more than 500 delegates are expected to attend.

Points on the agenda are:

- the concept of mass-based

- non-racial sport - introduced by Silas Nkanunu (rugby);
- the future of sport in South Africa - introduced by Kgalema Motlanthe (National Union of Mineworkers Education and Sports desk)
- the need for a sports conference - introduced by Krish Macherdhuji (cricket);
- towards a disciplined, healthy sports movement in preparation for a post-apartheid South Africa - introduced by Prof Jakes Gerwel, rector of the University of Cape Town;
- the need for unity in sport - introduced by Mluleki George (NSC);

The difficult issue of sponsorship and what criteria is applied will be discussed by Judy Abrahams (athletics) and Gary May of SA Breweries.

These topics will be dealt with by three groups who will look at unity in sport, mass-based non-racial sport and the future of sport.

Some of the better-known speakers are Ebrahim Patel, Solomon Morewa, Edward Mtshali, Issy Kramer, Tommy Bedford, Goba Ndlovu, Dan Nefolohodwe, Rama Reddy, Gwede Mantashe, Ronnie Pillay and Hope Malgas.

The congress will finish with the appointment of a commission to launch the NSC.

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