



SOUTH AFRICAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

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Dear Presidents

As you know, I recently attended a group IX meeting in Swaziland on behalf of the SAEF. I was requested by the Group IX Chair, Mary Binks, "to meet and greet" the FEI President, Mr. Ingmar de Vos when he landed in SA, enroute to Swaziland. She also requested that I get a SASCOC official to attend, since it was Mr De Vos's first visit to Africa and it would be appropriate for someone from SASCOC to greet him on arrival in SA.

I sent a request to Mr Mahomed and Mr. Reddy, but got no feedback. Eventually out of desperation I phoned President Gideon Sam directly and requested his attendance at the meeting. He informed me that it would be a public holiday and he could therefore not be able to attend. I explained to him the importance of the meeting after which he agreed to attend for an hour. It once again shows the commitment of our SASCOC President, to give up his private family time to accommodate Equestrian.

We all met at the Intercontinental Hotel at the OR Tambo Airport. In attendance was myself, Mary Binks, President De Vos, President Sam and Lucinda Arsenio, the FEI Federation Liaison. Mary started by welcoming everyone including President De Vos to Africa and more specifically South Africa.

We then started to discuss the FEI sport in this country. I started off by explaining the history of how all of equestrian was instructed by SASCOC to unite under one banner, the SAEF. I explained that this has caused a lot of frustration amongst the FEI group in this Country.

President De Vos then interrupted me and pointed out that there is no FEI group in this country, I then corrected myself by saying the FEI affiliates in the Country. President De Vos again stopped me and went to great detail to explain that the FEI does not recognise anyone else in this country except the Federation. He further explained that they do not recognise any specific DA in this country on its own, only if they are affiliated to the SAEF.

EXECUTIVE:

President: Andre Truter
Vice President FEI: Eric Bianchi
Vice President IEF: Shelly Beckbessinger
Secretary General: Wessel Strauss

CONSTITUENT MEMBERS:

All Discipline Associations, Associate Members and Athlete's commission.



I then explained to him that there are some leadership in the FEI sporting codes who want to reduce the size and significance of the SAEF to a proverbial “post box”. He strongly disagreed with such an action and encouraged a strong, vibrant Federation. I then brought up the British Federation and the makeup of it, as suggested by Clem dos Santos. He once again pointed out that it was an exception and it was debateable if it is working as intended. He said that he was SG of the Belgian Federation and is governed in the same principles as the SAEF.

He stated that this system works well and should not be tampered with. President De Vos asked me to explain how the FEI registered Codes and the non FEI codes make up Council, which I did. He expressed concern that the non FEI codes should not vote on technical matters of FEI sporting codes. I assured him that all codes have independence on technical matters and of the rules in their discipline. Technical matters are discussed and voted on in their own structures, as long as it is not in contradiction with our Geo Political structures, as required in SA. President Sam then also confirmed to President De Vos that things have changed since 1994 in this country and that things will never be as they were in the past.

He also confirmed that the SAEF has been given a Geo Political structure to operate under and that it is not negotiable. He spoke in detail about transformation and development in the sport and the importance thereof. He furthermore assured Mr De Vos that the SAEF is structured in accordance with SASCOC, but that there are a few “egos and personalities” in leadership of some DA s who are causing disruption. He said that this has been reported to him on various occasions by his board members who have assisted the SAEF in the past.

Both agreed that it is not acceptable behaviour and that it will no longer be tolerated. Mr De Vos also stressed that horse welfare in the Federation is very important to him. I assured him that we at the SAEF have the same view. President Sam went into detail to explain that doping within the Equestrian sport will not be tolerated in SA. He used an example where the Hawks were called in to investigate after rumours of doping in racing pigeons. Blood was drawn and the case is ongoing. He stressed that the same counts for all Federations belonging to SASCOC, not only Equestrian. I informed him that our cooperation with vets is very good and that the chair of the Veterinary Council attends all workshops and has jurisdiction over all the Associations within the Federation. Mr De Vos was happy with this.

In closing, President De Vos expressed his hope that every FEI registered sport in SA will abide by the rules and regulations of the Federation. In fact, he stated that if they do not “tow the line” that he will personally return to SA and instruct them to do so. He and President Sam exchanged cards and promised to meet again when President Sam goes to Switzerland. They both declared their satisfaction with the meeting and thanked us for arranging it. No further business was discussed.

During lunch gifts were presented to, President De Vos, Mary Binks and Lucinda on behalf of the Federation. They expressed their delight and their gratitude with the gifts. I then

proceeded to Swaziland to attend the Group IX General Assembly. Over the duration of the conference I had many more informal discussions with them and was assured that we have the support of the FEI and that they understand our structures much better now. A firm foundation was laid with the FEI to ensure very good relations in the future.

I am sure that the above information provides a better explanation and a slightly different picture as was made to believe by some. It also offered me an opportunity to get to know President De Vos on a personal basis. I believe that this will be of help in the future. We need to start accepting the situation as it is and embrace it. I believe that each DA should concentrate on their sport and put all their energy into sport and not politics!

I was hoping to give you this report in person, but since the meeting of the 30th was cancelled, I decided to compile this report.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Truter', written in a cursive style.

Andre Truter
President-SAEF