

MEDIA RELEASE
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CDA Condemnation of TARC verbal attack on Springbok Coach Peter de Villiers

Richard Botha, sports spokesperson for the CDA, condemned the TARC for once again showing how out of touch they are with what is truly required for effective transformation in South African Rugby.

He said that the TARC have revealed their ignorance by lashing out at Coach Peter De Villiers for not including enough black players in the team. This is extremely insensitive, especially after De Villiers had just completed one of the most amazing seasons in SA Rugby history. The Springboks have not only defeated the Lions, but have conquered our arch-enemies and brought us back the Tri-Nations Cup. This only happened because De Villiers chose the 'best'. The whole nation cheered when Habana scored his tries, when the Beast pushed the opposition back in the scrum, when the Captain raised the cup above his head.

Botha said that the legacy that a season like this creates does far more for the future of transforming Rugby in South Africa than any counterproductive tokenism. Rugby development starts by instilling enthusiasm in all our children to want to play the game and then to supply the facilities and opportunity to develop the God given talent that we have in this country. Children follow winners and South African Rugby is winning. It is not done by depriving players of reward for their hard work because of the colour of their skin. When is the TARC going to realise that we are World Champions and that we should be proud of it? We are creating a winning mentality that will not only help Rugby, but will spill over into all sport disciplines in South Africa.

The CDA would like to thank all the Springboks for making us proud. Let's not tarnish our image by involving petty politics where we shouldn't, especially just before 2010. The whole world is watching us. Let's act like the champions we are and to all our future champions, Black and White, perseverance, hard-work and talent does pay off.

Die Christen Demokratiese Alliansie (CDA) het die 'Transformation and Anti-Racism Rugby Committee' skerp veroordeel vir sy verwoede verbale aanval op die Springbokke se afrigter, Peter de Villiers.

Die TARC het De Villiers erg gekritiseer oor die min swart Springbokke in sy seëvierende span. Die ondervoorsitter van die CDA, ds. Theunis Botha, sê rugby-ontwikkeling begin op grondvlak waar geriewe en geleenthede geskep word om elke persoon se Godgegewe talente ten volle te ontwikkel, nie deur talentvolle, hardwerkende spelers die kroon op hul werk op grond van velkleur te ontnem nie. Die Internasionale Rugbyraad, soos die meeste internasionale sportliggame, verbied rassisme en politieke inmenging in sport, en Suid-Afrika kan nie bekostig om op die vooraand van die 2010-wêreldsokkerbekertoernooi, hieroor in die sop te beland nie.

Botha het die CDA se hartlike gelukwensing aan die Springbokke oorgedra met hul verowering van die drie-nasiekroon.