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**VERONICA VAN DYK, MP**

DEPUTY SHADOW MINISTER OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE

16 January 2024

Mr Lawson Naidoo  
Chairperson, Cricket South Africa  
Per e-mail: [lawsonn@cricket.co.za](mailto:lawsonn@cricket.co.za)

Dear Mr Naidoo,

**RE: DISMISSAL OF MR DAVID TEEGER AS CAPTAIN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN UNDER-19 CRICKET TEAM**

With reference to the media statement issued by Cricket South Africa (“CSA”) on 12 January 2024 and its decision that Mr David Teeger be removed as the captain of the South African Under-19 cricket team.

The DA is concerned that the sudden decision to strip Mr Teeger of his captaincy, premised upon certain “*security and risk updates*”, the contents of which have not been furnished to the public – and a mere week before the commencement of the under-19 Men’s Cricket World Cup, may constitute a grave violation of his constitutional rights. This decision also came after an independent inquiry, headed by Wim Trengrove, cleared Teeger of allegations that his speech, beliefs or convictions violated any of CSA’s rules.

Mr Teeger, as every other individual in South Africa, is entitled to the exercise of his right to freedom of expression and speech, and his right to freedom of religion, belief, and opinion must not only be respected but must be advanced and protected.

CSA has a duty to protect the constitutional freedoms of its players, to guard against any infringement upon those rights – and not to succumb to threats of violence when those rights are lawfully exercised. CSA’s decision, in these circumstances, to strip Mr Teeger of his captaincy amounts to an abdication of that responsibility.

CSA’s approach to this matter, and the manner in which it has resolved to treat Mr Teeger, gives rise to the very real apprehension that the CSA has unfairly discriminated against one of their own players. It is a position which cannot be allowed to set precedent for the future treatment of our nation’s sports players, let alone a player who is under 19 years of age.

It would thus appear that the decision taken by CSA was nothing more than a *mala fide* decision taken after receiving pressure from government to discipline Mr Teeger for his constitutional right to freedom of speech. In CSA's own statement, it stated that the reason for removing Mr Teeger as captain was that "*there is a risk that they could result in conflict or even violence, including between rival groups of protestors*". If this were the case, and there was a *bona fide* concern for the safety of Mr Teeger, the team, or spectators, surely the course of events would have been to enhance security to ensure everyone's protection. It is thus clear that this decision was nothing more than a political one.

As such, the DA calls upon the CSA to immediately reinstate Mr Teeger to his captaincy. Should CSA fail to reinstate Mr Teeger by **the end of Friday, 19 January 2024**, the DA will lodge a formal complaint with the South African Human Rights Commission.

Given the national importance of this matter we look forward to receiving your urgent response.

Yours faithfully,

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

**Veronica van Dyk, MP**  
**Shadow Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture**  
**Democratic Alliance**