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VERONICA VAN DYK, MP
SHADOW MINISTER OF SPORTS, ARTS & CULTURE

Mr Greg Barclay
Chairman of the International Cricket Council
By email:

Dear Mr Barclay

**Under-19 Cricket World Cup: Removal of David Teeger as Captain of the South African
Under-19 National Team**

1. I refer to the above matter and to the upcoming under-19 (U19) Cricket World Cup.
2. On 12 January 2024, Cricket South Africa (CSA) announced its decision to remove Mr David Teeger as captain of the U19 squad to represent hosts South Africa in the forthcoming Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup. This despite Mr Teeger being cleared by independent inquiry initiated by CSA on his expressed views on Israel.
3. Despite being cleared in December 2023, CSA proceeded to relieve him of his captaincy, this time citing security and risk concerns. CSA does not state specifically what these security concerns are, but did state that "*there is a risk that they could result in conflict or even violence, including between rival groups of protestors*".
4. Given that CSA has not been forthcoming about such serious concerns, I believe that the true reason for the decision was actually as a result of political interference by the National Government of South Africa. However, given the gravity of such a statement, it would be amiss of the ICC not to fully investigate these alleged serious concerns.
5. If security concerns indeed exist, as the global governing body for cricket, CSA and the national government ought to have raised such concerns with you. I thus write to you to confirm whether the ICC has indeed been advised of these risks, whether other teams participating have been advised, and whether necessary measures are in place. However,

most importantly, whether these “real” security risks put the safety of the tournament, as a whole, in jeopardy.

6. However, as mentioned, I believe that this is nothing more than a smokescreen to hide the fact that a national government has interfered in cricket, and at the same time, violated a player’s right to freedom of speech, expression and religion, notwithstanding impugning his dignity on the world stage. Integrity is a key tenet of the ICC. The Anti-Discrimination Code is unequivocal that world cricket must be “free from any kind of racism whether based on race, religion, colour, culture, descent, national or ethnic origin”. If Teeger’s removal is based on politics, CSA is in violation of the Anti-Discrimination Code.
7. Given the gravity of CSA’s public statement, I ask that you get positive assurance and a public confirmation from CSA and the South African Government that there are no real security risks as they have initially stated, and that other member states do not need to be concerned for their player’s or spectator’s safety.
8. I do pause to mention that a Senator from the Australian Parliament has also written to their body, Cricket Australia, to seek these assurances as a result of the reckless statement made by CSA.
9. Your guidance and action will be greatly appreciated to manage the fearmongering that has now occurred ahead of this World Cup.
10. Lastly, should it be that there are indeed no real security threats, I ask that the ICC then deals with the issue of political pressure and intervention in this World Cup most seriously and take the necessary steps against the South African National Government to prevent any future interference from occurring again.
11. Considering that the tournament begins this week, I trust that you will give this the necessary urgent attention.

Your sincerely,

Veronica Van Dyk, MP
Member of Parliament
Democratic Alliance
Official Opposition in the Parliament of South Africa