

NELSON MANDELA METRO DISTRICT NETBALL (NMM(DN) DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2008

1 INTRODUCTION

The year 2007 has been a remarkable one for netball in the disadvantaged communities of the Nelson Mandela Metro District. The netball programme of "let us play" which included forming structures, training officials and playing netball was a success. The programme was blessed by the support from other sport council, sport codes, sport, recreation, arts and culture department, communities and councillors, municipality, spectators and the media (newspaper and radio). Indeed it was a difficult task as netball went through the various areas mobilising women to play netball. The aim was to ensure that netball is played in area and is accessible to everyone BUT there was NO budget. Many women and youth are unemployed. **It was a year in which NMMDN realized that disadvantaged communities have talent which needs to be tapped and showcased.** Furthermore, we learnt that decisions about South Africa cannot be made in Britain without South Africa participating i.e. decisions about disadvantaged communities cannot be made for them without them. So the slogan "nothing about us without us"

The process of demarcation came at the right time and at the right place. Our opinion is that demarcation initiated by the government because the government saw that not all the communities were catered for by the old structures. That is, sport codes such as netball were not accessible to everyone i.e they were not inclusive. This means there was a need to engage the role players in sport in the communities.

Sport has not been kind to our netball women in the disadvantaged communities because many are competing for the love of the game with limited resources at their disposal. A few women have started to make inroads, especially those who play for white clubs, but we still have to ensure that more women are recognized.

Netball is the largest participative women's sport at all levels in South Africa, Eastern Cape and Nelson Mandela Metro. Netball works closely with the Nelson Mandela Metro Sport Council (NMMSC). This is shown by the fact that three (3) of its executive members are executive members of NMMSC. Furthermore, Netball works closely with the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC) in identifying and promoting netball at schools (both able and disabled) and communities in the different areas, especially disadvantaged communities in the Nelson Mandela Metro. NMMDN works closely with government. This is shown by the fact that it has conducted provincial "wellness" games for the Department of Public Works and National games for the Department of Correctional Services.

2 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF PLAYERS & OFFICIALS

NMMDN has developed a pool of talented players & officials which can elevate South Africa to the top of the Netball playing nations. Netball is played in the clubs in the disadvantaged communities of the Nelson Mandela Metro, namely, Motherwell- with 10 clubs, New Brighton- 5 clubs, Kwazakhele - 6 clubs, Zwide- 2 clubs, Kwadwesi-with- 3 teams, KwaMagxaki- 1 club, KwaNobuhle- with 4 clubs, Despatch- 2 clubs, Bethelsdorp- 2 club, Gelvandale - 2 clubs, KwaNoxolo- 1 club and Izinyoka -3 clubs. Furthermore some clubs have 3 or 2 teams. There are 4 men teams.

NMMDN looks after all participants, of different age groups, in the clubs in the different areas and officials such as coaches, umpires, selectors, scorers and time keepers, administrators and managers.

SCHOOL and CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Club coaches coach at schools in their areas. During 2007-2008, focus is on schools that are underdeveloped. For example, New Brighton Coach coaches at Newell High School. The performance of the netball team at the school has improved. This is shown by the fact that at the

Easter Splash Festival the school team came second and was awarded vouchers.

Clubs assist each other. The new clubs are assisted in terms of coaching, umpiring and rules discussions.

NMMDN has good relationship with schools (primary and high schools). This is shown by the fact that there are educators on its executive committee. Some of them are members of the schools executive.

NMMDN was requested by Metro schools to provide umpires and selectors at zonal, district and satellite trials. Furthermore, club coaches coach at schools and umpires assist at school matches. For example, umpiring a match between Pearson High School and Woodridge.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Netball in these disadvantaged communities has a lot of potential. NMMDN has a relationship with government and assists in tournaments organized by various government departments. For example, NMMDN was responsible for the netball section in the inter-regional "wellness programme" held in PE by the Department of Public Works during August 2007. Furthermore, NMMDN was tasked with the netball section in the National Offender's tournament held in PE by the Department of Correctional Services during February 2008.

NMMDN members attend workshops organized by the Department of Sport Arts and Culture (DSRAC).

MUNICIPALITY

The Municipality assisted with funding the Easter Netball tournament during 2007. The municipality, through the business unit of sport, uses umpires and coaches to assist with their programmes in communities.

OTHER INVOLVEMENT

NMMDN has benefited through Umzingisi programme. The programme uses club coaches to coach at schools. NMMDN has been involved from the birth of Umzingisi programme in that some executive members of NMMDN are on Umzingisi management structure.

MEDIA

NMMDN has received publicity through Umhlobo Wenene. For this we are grateful. It's leagues, tournaments & meetings are announced.

SPORT COUNCIL/ SPORT FORUMS

NMMDN has a good relationship and is affiliated to the Nelson Mandela Metro Sport Council (NMMSC). Some executive members of NMMDN are members of the executive of NMMSC.

NMMDN is represented at sport forums. For example, in Motherwell Sport Forum, there are executive members of NMMDN. Netball is busy with identification, education and training of development officers within each area/sport desk/ sport forum to continue advancement of netball within their communities.

2.2 EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF TECHNICAL OFFICIALS

NMMDN assisted the schools by training primary and high school teachers in umpiring, managers, scorers and timekeeping. These teachers together with club officials participated in a highly focused intensive programme to maximize their development and growth. There are 40 officials that have gone through this programme. Each official participated in the area of his/her choice and some are qualified in all.

Many officials are unemployed. NMMDN has managed to send officials to training with computers.

2.3 PROMOTION OF PARTICIPATION OF TEAMS IN LEAGUE COMPETITIONS, WITH OTHER DISTRICTS BOTH ON A HOME AND AWAY BASIS.

NMMDN participates but many teams cannot afford away matches due to lack of funds. Various Samaritans including The Red Location Museum have assisted NMMDN. The Red Location Museum funded the Women's tournament during 2007. Furthermore, the Museum declared the event as an annual tournament.

NMMDN has assisted teams from rural areas and played matches in these areas.

2.4 ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2007, 4 players were selected in schools teams. However, the number of players selected to Metro School teams has increased from 4 to 8 during 2008.

During 2007, there were 8 umpires who were graded. Some of the umpires received a higher grade during 2008. However, there are 6 umpires that received new grades during 2008. NMMDN boasts of a "B" umpires and "C" umpires.

4 officials completed the basic computer course. 2 teams that were winners the women's day tournament received a quality playing uniform- similar to those of the Proteas. The 2 runners up received tog bags and 2 bronze winners received water bottles. All teams that participated received two balls.

10 officials (umpires, scorers & timekeeping) were honoured at the Nelson Mandela Metro Municipality Sport Awards during 2007.

4 coaches are employed by DSRAC through the Mass Participation Programme.

2.5 ASSISTANCE

NMMDN requires assistance in terms of infrastructure (office with office equipment to run netball. At present, there is no netball office. We would like to run netball professionally and so need an office with development officers to assist in promoting the code just like rugby, cricket, soccer and athletics. Furthermore, assistance is needed in terms of equipment (balls, bottles, cones, stop watches, whistles, nets, poles), clothing (playing uniform, bibs, jackets) and capacity building(training development officers to run netball, administration, selection).

Players and officials who are selected to different tasks in the Metro teams end up not participating away due to lack of funds. We request assistance as both players and officials from need to be given opportunities to showcase their talent.

NMMDN apologises to the Portfolio Committee as they are unable to attend due to lack of funding. As communicated to the local member of parliament on sport, the district tried to raise funds but they were insufficient. Thanking you in anticipation!!!!

The Nelson Mandela Metro District Netball (NMMDN) would like to put on record the following:

1 There are two netball structures in the Metro which run their own events and leagues. NMMDN is affiliated to NMMSC. The other netball structure is affiliated to the Eastern Province Sport Council (EPSC).

2 Many districts, two old structures of netball and DSRAC (Bisho) attended a netball meeting to discuss demarcation.

3 The demarcation process, as outlined by DSRAC-Bisho, has not been followed instead there were name changes in Netball.

4 Numerous meetings were called by the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture (DSRAC-Metro) and the Nelson Mandela Sport Council (NMMSC) to deal with the matter raised above without success.

5 NMMSC requested various meetings again with regard to unification of the two netball structures without success. Copy sent to DSARC and NSA (refer to letter 1). **The problem of the two structures is not limited to the Nelson Mandela Metro only but prevails throughout the Eastern Cape Province. For example, there are two structures in the Amathole District.**

6 NMMDN applied for affiliation to NSA. The necessary documentation was sent as required during February 2007. The registration of NMMDN was nullified by NSA.

7 **A meeting was held with all districts in the Eastern Cape. DSRAC-Bisho and NSA were in attendance. However, NSA's late**

arrival was noted. According to NMMDN, the meeting, which did not last for long-as NSA had to depart so that they do not miss their flight, was not successful. NMMDN and other districts were not given the opportunity to raise their concerns. They were told that the mother body does not communicate to non-affiliates. The questions that arise include the following: why were districts called to the meeting, how do you get people to affiliate to an organisation and where is netball promoted? This resulted in DSRAC-Bisho requesting each district to make submissions.

8 According to the Municipal Demarcation Board, the Eastern Cape consists of seven districts. According to Districts South Africa (2008:3), Nelson Mandela Metro is a Category A municipality. This means it acts as both district and local municipality. The questions that arise are: How can a district affiliate to a region? (refer to letter 2). What constitutes a district and a region?

9 NMMDN together with DSRAC-Metro made submissions to DSRAC-Bisho during 2007. NMMDN waited for the response.

9.1 NMMDN players and officials again were denied the opportunity to showcase their talent. These netball players and officials were excluded from netball events and championships held outside the Metro except Sport events organised by DSRAC and other government departments. They were not invited to trials even the National League team in the Eastern Cape, namely the Comets has members that come from one structure of the Metro. NMMDN also wants to benefit from the sponsorship-for national league and other events given to NSA by SABC, as mentioned in Umhlobo Wenene on Sat. 31/5/2008.

10 After NMMDN did not receive response from DSRAC-Bisho during 2007, they visited DSRAC-Metro with regard to way forward on uniting the two netball structures during January 2008.

11 Again meetings were called by DSRAC-Metro without success.

12 It was after having exhausted all the avenues at its disposal that NMMDN sent letters to national sport stakeholders requesting assistance. These letters were copied to provincial and local sport stakeholders. **The portfolio committee responded first then DRSA national thereafter. NMMDN APPRECIATES THE RESPONSE FROM THESE INSTITUTIONS OF SPORT.**

Evidence suggests that the other structure does not have u/19 this year. The question is who will represent the Metro at the u/19 championships? NMMDN players and officials want to participate in the sport they have passion for i.e netball. The desire for participation had increased because the U/19 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS will be held in East London during JUNE 2008. The question is how can other players and officials from other provinces participate and benefit whereas players and officials from NMMDN and other districts in the Eastern Cape are excluded from showcasing their talent in their own province?

REASONS, AMONGST OTHERS, FOR NOT AFFILIATING TO THE OTHER STRUCTURE IN THE METRO

- **due to the reasons mentioned above**
- NMMDN has a relationship with the media such as Umhlobo Wenene. How does the other structure promote netball?
- League matches are played at venue far away from disadvantaged communities
- Lack of transformation. None or little **genuine** representation of those from previously disadvantaged communities and clubs.
- **Unfavourable constitution. For example, voting rights i.e old clubs have more voting rights than new clubs.**
- **Lack of involvement of schools**
- Very few black clubs registered. Black players and officials are often registered with white clubs.
- No full-time development officers.
- Not community-driven. Not accessible to all communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NMMDN sees the role of the portfolio committee as mediator as appropriate. The message from NMMDN is CLEAR

- NMMDN would like to participate in netball IN THE EASTERN CAPE AND SOUTH AFRICA. Netball has to be accessible to disadvantaged communities. This means NMMDN would like to participate in the u/19 championships to be held in East London in JUNE 2008 and other national championships.
- One Sport Council in the Nelson Mandela Metro.
- NMMDN players and officials to be given an opportunity to showcase their talent.
- The two netball structures have to unify. There has to be one structure representing all communities in the Nelson Mandela Metro.
- NMMDN players and officials to be registered with NSA
- NMMDN would like to see unification in other districts in the Eastern Cape. This will lead to formation of an Eastern Cape Netball structure.

“Nothing about us without us”

NMMDN would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Portfolio Committee of sport for its contribution in sport in South Africa!!!!!!



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President : NMMDN

Nelson Mandela Metro Sport Council
Po Box 805, Govan Mbeki Avenue, PE, 6000

Enq: Mr. S. Majola
Fax: 041: 454 3911
Nmmca@webmail.co.za

Cell: 0836506306

***The President
EP Netball
Port Elizabeth
6000***

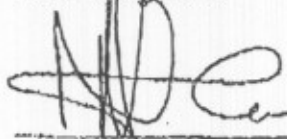
Dear Sir/Madam

The Executive Committee of the aforesaid Council wishes to raise a concern over non-cooperation by the EP Netball. This is in view of our correspondence to the association dated the 24 October 2006 requesting a meeting for the 01 November 2006. *(Find the letter Attached).*

The Council holds a view that Netball in the Nelson Mandela Metro is not unified as long as there is two parallel Netball structures' operating. Hence we requested a meeting to find amicable solution to this problem.

We also have learnt that you will be convening a meeting tomorrow despite us requesting a platform with your EXCO, perhaps in your view things are normal

We therefore urged your executive to give necessary attention to this request.

PP


SB Majola
Chairperson (NMMSC)

Cc: Mr Makhubalo (DSRAC)
Netball SA



NETBALL SOUTH AFRICA

P O Box 12474 Hatfield 0083 / 864 Park Street Arcadia 0028

Tel: 012 3445971
Fax: 012 3435285

President
A B Mthethwa
072 2353100

Vice-President
Blanche de la Guerre
083 4471774

E-mail: amthethwa@hlabisa.org.za

Blanche@trapezium.co.za

To: Mondli Nohashe, Ms Noma Kotelo	Enquiries : Mami Diale (Director Demarcation & Structures)
Cc: NSA Executive Committee, Nelson Mandela Bay President (Mabel Van Vliet	Fax: 012 343 5285
	Tell: 012 343 9869
Date : 5 May 2008	Cell :083 7541151

AFFILIATION OF NELSON MANDELA DISTRICT NETBALL TO NETBALL SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Madam /Sir

NSA is a National body that operates with regions not districts, a district therefore affiliates to a region directly and not to NSA.

All districts, municipalities and clubs are expected to affiliate (membership) and register (participation) to their regions of which a region will affiliate and register their members to Netball South Africa. At this stage Nelson Mandela Bay is a constituted region that is in good standing with Netball South Africa and full members that are eligible for participation at all NSA events.

Regions will benefit and participate at all NSA events when they have complied fully as members. Properly constituted regions which are full members should comply with the following

- 150 members or more
- Not in disrepute with Netball South Africa
- Fully in payment of the annual fees, (affiliation R 350 on or before 28 February and registration 1st business day of May, R20 per capita)
- Submitted a list of members with their ID numbers
- Submitted a regional activity programme with dates

Nelson Mandela Metro district were advised by Netball South Africa to affiliate to their region (Nelson Mandela Bay former Eastern Province Region) which is recognised by Netball South Africa.

Kindest regards