



**MINISTRY: FINANCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X115, Pretoria, 0001, Tel: +27 12 323 3262 Fax: +27 12 323 3262
PO BOX 29, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: +27 21 464 6100 Fax: +27 21 461 2934

16 February 2005

The Honourable T Donald Lee
National Assembly
Parliament

Dear Donald

We sit on opposite sides of the House because we have differences of belief and perspective. I fully respect your right to hold the views you do, as I am sure that you respect mine, and my right to disagree with yours.

Within this context, I want to take an unprecedented step to share with you how disappointed I was yesterday with the views you articulated on racism in sport. I do so, assuming that, like me, you were discriminated against and prevented from living your full potential – on the sports field, or in society in general.

My perspective is based on a set of ideas that require an understanding of the fact that historical disadvantage lingers inter-generationally. The fact that my parents were removed under the Group Areas Act impoverished them and my generation. Conversely, by virtue of my current earnings, I am able to afford a better set of opportunities for my children. I must assume, colleague, that your position is no different.

The choice before us is either to leave matters as they are and carry forward racial distortions in sport, allowing for the sons and daughters of those who have had privilege to represent all of us, or we can effect some corrections to 'level the playing field'. You appear to be happy with an arrangement where the sons and daughters of the historically privileged will be our sole representatives – that is fine, it is within your beliefs. Most of South Africa, including virtually every sports administrator, with a few notable exceptions, like Clive Rice, believe that we must attain the Constitutional imperative of representivity will not be arrived at automatically. We then accept that some determined action is necessary.

Again, I advise that it is your right to disagree. You argue that this is racism and the equivalent of apartheid. I think that you are so wrong.

But this letter is not about who is right and who is wrong. It is about how disturbed I am at your distortion of history. Nowhere have I had this more callously expressed than by you who chose to equate the actions of Kevin Pietersen with those of Basil D'Oliviera. I cannot express my outrage sufficiently. This, in my view is not a question of mere disagreement or trying to settle a score between Donald and Trevor – this is about your vilification and abuse of the heroes of South Africa.

You are, of course, aware that 'Dolly' is the recipient of the Order of Ikhamanga in Silver. Donald, I am afraid that you have no right to this. You cannot, in an endeavour to justify your position, walk on the sacrifices of those who offered up every bit of themselves to build non-racialism. I want you to know that, as a colleague in this House, I cannot be a party to your doing that.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Manuel, MP
Minister of Finance