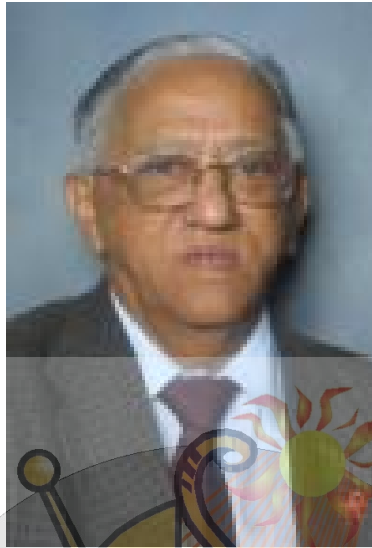


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BIOGRAPHY
EDUCATION
LENASIA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION
PEOPLES CANDIDATES PARTY
SPORT
ISLAM
INDIAN SOUTH AFRICANS
YOUTH

In the company of these giants of non-racial sports I am a mere apprentice. Their steadfast loyalty to the principles of non-racialism has shown the naked hypocrisy of the much vaunted Keernhof Plan for the normalisation of sports. To-night it is my considered supposition that because sports forms an intricate part of the totality of life, more so in an industrial environment, where people are increasingly becoming impersonal components of the industrial productive machinery, we cannot effectively dismember sports from the absolute reality of the S.A. racial system. There can never be and never shall be normal sports as long as there are laws governing the movements and actions of people. Isolation and balkanisation of people will never result in any segment of activity ever becoming normal or equal. Sports and recreation under such ordered existence affords unequal and prejudiced release, for individuals and groups, from the tensions, stresses and regimentation of economic demands and political restraints. That this is so in S.A. is clearly evident from the poverty of facilities and the disgusting nature of the quality of amenities that exist. Thus in every facet the sporting scene forms a continuity of the socio-economic-political web in which we are forced to survive. Further, at all levels - local, national and international, sports has become more than a past-time or leisure activity - through competition it not only has become a profession to many, but also a projection of the national pride and prowess of nations. It is because of this wholistic approach that world pressures and local demands have combined to compel the S.A. Government to make the muddled changes which has resulted in a confused breach within the granite fortress of apartheid. We have become entangled in a state invented policy, which would do credit to the art of witless diplomacy. In order to maintain the racial status quo and to make white sportsmen acceptable to the community of nations, a policy of ambiguity has been devised, which without doubt is multinational in intent and character and "multiracial" for those who wish to use it as a guise for participation and international acceptability. For any person to pretend that it is normal sports, is an exercise in self-delusion and dishonesty. It will neither fool the world nor give credibility to those who wish to dupe others.

I state clearly and without prejudice that whilst I utterly oppose multinationalism as a concept and I am opposed to those that promote this division within a single nation, I will not usurp the democratic right of those who think otherwise and respect their convictions, if they are prepared to respect mine without coercion, force and intimidation. They are entitled to feel that they can achieve satisfaction within the derogatory limits of restriction and constraints. But one cannot forgive those that want to mesmerise innocent people into believing that what is now offered is normal sport. We must not be confused with the Keernhof brand of mixed sport with integrated sport. These are poles apart and as different as chalk and cheese. I believe that those that are now involved in non-integrated mixed sport should be honest enough and bold to call a spade a spade. It is the democratic prerogative of codes of sports and individuals to play, but they must do so under its proper title. Not call mixed sport integrated sport and not confuse people with normal sport being synonymous with multinational sport. One must be prepared to sell ones convictions with honesty and integrity and not with duplicity and contentions.

That has been the most fascinating and saddening aspect of the befuddled sports policy in-

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terpretation, has been the facility with which some avowed non-racial sportsmen and administrators have been able to slide into the comfortable scheme of things; and the haste with which they have changed allegiance from their friends of yore and joined the white fold, left one trembling with doubts of collusion and pre-planning of ditching the whole non-racial boat in mid-stream chaos. In this a deathly blow to the unity of long-standing alliances have been dealt with cruel intent. Surely, if after considered and calculated deliberations, it was the majority decision to accept the convoluted dispensations offered as a strategy means to crack wide open the dubious aspects of the new cloak to an old bogey and so test the sincerity of the white sporting codes, then perhaps many would have had no quarrel with such a decision.. But to have adopted hasty, undisciplined and poorly motivated actions, without due regard and respect to the principles of umbrella organisations such as National Councils and SACCS, was a Judas blow to the whole non-racial sports movement. It too is a crippling insult to all those international groups, nations and organisations that have positively helped to drive a severe blow into the un-sympathetic fabric of apartheid. It must not be forgotten, that if there has been any gain in the S.A. sporting scene then it has been primarily due to the unswerving dedication of those who have mobilised international pressures and enjoined the world sporting fraternity to outlaw S.A. sports persons and codes as unwanted and undesirable. If there are to be any bouquets then we should reserve them for those and the unsold sporting martyrs within our borders, who cocked a snoot at invitations from multinational and other separate sports overtures. For some of our non-racial administrators who have so eagerly changed their non-racial garb for the doubtful lure of the Feernhof Multiracialism I hope will be a sobering thought that they may have prolonged the sweet taste of real majority success. For many it leaves much to the imagination regarding their motives and casts long dark shadows on their intentions.

Have we not waited three centuries for genuine success and the short list of properly motivated results would have given our cause the united momentum and penetrating thrust that would have permanently destroyed the flanks of prejudice and captured the evil heart of racialism. Just a few weeks ago, discussing the political situation a well-known white politician remarked - "I see Lenasia is now only interested in producing first-class cricketers" - I pray that the actions of a few will not jeopardise the security of the many.

It is still beyond my simple comprehension how one can equate normal sports with conditions of spectator separation, refreshment restrictions and lavatorial segregation, as those laid down for the so-called multiracial boxing tournament. How can it be normal sport when black teams are prepared to accept whites as members, even though some have already retired and are making token come-backs, while white teams find all sorts of excuses for not responding - Jeppe Old Boys is a case that comes to mind. Such acts of tokenism cannot obliterate the evils of separation, but merely lulls us into false hopes of wider expectations, and divides our vigilance and efforts. Such sporting intermingling in the U.S.A. before the Civil Rights Movement was common place but it did not lower the barriers of discrimination. These narrow lanes of contact did little to breakdown the broad prejudices of the white American Public. This will be more so in a country stringently divided into racial ghettos. If a mixed economy is held captive by prejudice

and inequalities of the system, so the incursion of a few black sportspersons into national or provincial teams will not suddenly transform any code into normal or non-racial sports. The humiliations suffered by black American sportsmen for centuries is a good barometer. Just as job reservation requirements are lowered to accommodate a serious situation, will not proclaim an integrated economic order, so the exceptional ability of a few sportsmen, nurtured under the most trying of conditions, will not overnight demolish the injustices of separate sports - with it must come the immediate abolition of separate racial administrative controlling sports Councils and there must be effective deployment of huge sums of monies towards the equalisation of amenities, facilities, training, coaching and upgrading in the deprived areas. Parochial offers of assistance and a few token gestures of player coaches joining isolated teams cannot correct the imbalance of apartheid. Further the Dept. of Sports must immediately relinquish its white exclusivity and adopt the moral responsibility of structuring for the needs of all people.

The limited success of any one section of a single code towards normal sport, is a red-herring which can but only be divisive, because within the unity of a family all do not subscribe to the same code; and if there is no unified solution towards a common all-code normalisation, then there will be strains and stresses within the emotional harmony of many such mixed sporting families. We are acutely aware or should be aware of the sociological effects of playing white in the social sphere, where some members of a family, due to their lighter pigmentation are able to cross the colour line, but the effects are traumatic and pitiable. Do we want such a division of families in the family of sports? Do we want to have battle lines drawn within our own camp? Do we want blacks to be beaten blacks? Is the exercise of trying to justify multiracialism for as multi-racialism so important that we must be prepared to throw away the sacrifices of unity and loyal standing? In unity lies our strength and in it lies the possible success of achieving the breakthrough for normalisation of sports. Strategy is one thing, the vindication of principles another. Does our hasty and hurried stumble into the arena of an inconsistent sports policy not suggest the shallowness of our own allegiance to the symbol of non-racialism? Are some organisers not abusing the blind faith and trust of the sportsmen have placed in their judgement and integrity? By nature our sportspersons have by and large been faithful to the dictates of their administrative mentors. Surely this can lead to injurious effects in the long term to our national interests. These are some of the long term considerations we must weigh before crossing the Rubicon. The Rubicon that some have crossed without being open and frank with those who have trustingly accepted their wisdom and judgement. Leaders who have refused to take the public into their confidence. Leaders who believe in secret diplomacy without being open to their followers. Is there something to hide? Is the message they have a betrayal of the cause for which non-racialism has so determinedly defended? Only their conscience and their actions can say. But I believe the public have a right to know the truth and let them decide the manner in which each individual wishes to react. Let those in command spare a thought for all those who so gallantly withstood the test of deprivation and denial and so laid the foundations, which has resulted in the floundering foray of the Minister of Racial Sports into the thicket of uncertainty, in which he is trying to run with the hares and

hunt with the hounds. It is my submission that if they are being dishonest then let them find their own way through the maze of pitfalls created by this distortion of human values and virtues. Must we allow them to lean on us for succour? Are not the wounds of insults to black dignity and self-respect too deep to be healed by promises of peripheral embellishments? Are we not giving the policy a staff to lean on and so unknowingly and unconsciously prolonging the agony of continued racialism? These are questions which only the sportsmen and women can resolve.

I consider sports an avenue for passive resistance and effective non-violent weapon through which we can motivate effective change, in the larger amphitheatre of human relationship. Is it wise to surrender this effective painless strategy, which has no doubt exposed the archill's heel of Nationalist policy. In many aspects blacks have no choice but to make compromising gestures, because on it may depend survival, suffering or punishment. But sports is an area in which no such dilemma exists, and yet it can play a significant role in the restoration of justice and human dignity. I can assure you that by not playing sports with or against whites and not attending white sports meetings for over a quarter century has in no way diminished my appreciation of life or its pertinent values. As a keen sportsman it has been most rewarding and painless. In Lenasia we have been able to rid all racial sporting organisations through mutual consultation and agreement. Are we now going to be faced with the ugly situation of having multinational sports under the guise of multiracialism. I pray to God Not. We hope that sports administrators with moral obligations will not leave us in the dark and so create situations that can inflame and disrupt harmonious inter-community relationships.

Finally a short resume of the sports policy will I am sure not be out of place: The policy pronouncement leaves little doubt of the true intentions of the Nationalist Government, that it is Multinationalism - the preamble talks of "due regard to the provisions of any laws and regulations, which may be appropriate" - viz. Group Areas Act, Separate Amenities Act and all the attendant devious amendments to these. Nowhere does it state that sports will be allowed unrestricted and unprejudiced development - permits and approval will still be needed from the Dept. Of Sports. It is not Government. resilience or sympathy that have precluded state actions against those who have defied Government intentions, but fear of international reaction and in some instances - loopholes in the varied legislations in this matter. That there is a medley of confusion and uncertainty in the sports codes is the real test of the surface refinement to an old outdated idea - inconsistent with sports and sportsmanship. Also, the fact that lack of spectator interest or following, may have allowed some sports to escape the racial dragnet does not mean official sanction of integrated sports. It is public knowledge that the policy is explicit regarding the confinement of members to - "belonging to own clubs and the control, arrange and manage their own sporting matters". Talks of "consult & liaison between sports organisations", but no mention of amalgamation or restructuring on non-racial lines is stressed.. Further individual sports will "allow mutual competition", without loss of identity of individual boards. It goes on to continuation of "own leagues or contests" within own national context. allows mixed leagues but not mixed teams. Adds that groups "arrange their own sporting relations with other countries". The whole theme of the declaration is emphasis on segregation groups and not MERIT.

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Thus the policy is quite clear and no amount of acrobatics can alter its meaning. As stated previously participate if you wish, but do not try and confuse others by defining it as non-racialism. By all means do your thing but do so with the clear understanding that it is Multinationalism. One cannot hope to balance both ends of a see-saw with unequal weights without falling off. Just as the Keornhof Juggle is as clear as daylight, so any enigmatic explanation to justify participation on the basis of non-racialism will be futile. We may bluff ourselves but we cannot bluff the clear-headed and the knowledgeable. So play if you must and leave the battle for true non-racialism to those that have not faltered against internal or external intimidations and disruptions. Justice in the end will thrive and let those bold enough to withstand the forces of repression continue the struggle for non-racial integrated sports.

Thank You.

R.A.M. SALGUE.

