11 FEBRUARY 2009

MEC CHRISTIAN MARTIN TO HAND OVER RUGBY JERSEYS TO SCHOOLS & PROGRESS RUGBY TEAM IN PORT ELIZABETH

Tomorrow, Eastern Cape Public Works MEC Christian Martin, will hand over rugby jerseys and gear to Uitenhage Progress Rugby Club and various schools in the greater Port Elizabeth area. The gear, sponsored by GAP Management, is meant to promote rugby in previous disadvantaged areas.

MEC Martin said rugby is a national treasure, and all who participate in it, at all levels, are entitled to free and equal access to it. “In this regard, the government should play a critical role in ensuring that those of our people, who were previously (and unjustly) denied access to the sport, must be given every possible opportunity to participate in, and have access to, it.

“Over the past years, rugby has been thrown into turmoil over the issue of transformation, and in particular the selection of the Springbok team. We have seen trends of racism in rugby. The racial abuse of Ziningi Shibambo by three men during the game between the Springboks and Australia last year is just one example.

“Every South African has an imperative role to play to make sure that we liberate rugby from our horrible past and transform into an inclusive sport, which will be enjoyed and love by all of us”.
According to Martin tomorrow’s event is but a small start in ensuring that rugby is treasured by all communities. “We call upon other role players to assist us in our endeavors, because rugby can play an important role in creating social capital to help bind a diverse nation together”.

Date: Thursday, 12 February 2009
Time: 14h00
Venue: Chatty Secondary School, Northern Areas, Port Elizabeth

More information: Willem Oliphant 082-313-1444

Issued by Jason Lloyd 082-728-5476