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21 FEBRUARY 2022

SASCOC MOURNS DEATH OF EBRAHIM PATEL

It is with a heavy heart that the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) have learnt of the passing of former South African Rugby Union President, Mr Ebrahim Patel who died on Monday 21 February 2022.

SASCOC acknowledges and appreciates the fundamental role Patel played in rugby during the apartheid era. He was secretary, spokesman and then President of the non-racial SA Rugby Union during the latter half of the apartheid era. Unity between the former SA Rugby Board (SARB) and the former SA Rugby Union (SARU) was concluded in November 1991 and the inaugural General Meeting of the newly-constituted SARFU was held in Kimberley in March, 1992. At the inaugural meeting for the interim Executive Committee, Mr Ebrahim Patel and Dr Danie Craven were the first co-Presidents of the new body.

Patel performed a key role in isolating the rugby establishment during the apartheid era, prior to leading his people in the unification negotiations. As president of the new united governing body of South African rugby, Patel made history by becoming the first black leader to serve on the International Rugby Board.

SASCOC President, Mr Barry Hendricks conveyed his condolences, "We are deeply saddened by the passing of a stalwart who played a vital role and fought against all odds during apartheid for transformation of rugby in South Africa. His untimely death robs us of yet another seasoned sport administrator."

"Our thoughts are with his family at this time," concluded Hendricks.

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