

MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION SOUTH AFRICA FOREWORD



The South African Sport & Recreation Conference (SASReCon), is a platform created by my Department of Sport & Recreation (SRSA) with the objective of bridging the gap between theory, policy and practice, while also acting as a forum for participants to present and share ideas including best sport practices and results of recent sport research projects and Programmes. In the next few days as delegates, you will be engaged in serious and robust deliberations around all aspects of Sport and Recreation including commercialisation, Broadcast, marketing to name a few.

SASReCon platform is going to emerge as an information platform where thought leaders and thinkers from the sporting fraternity are brought together to share critical thinking around the latest cutting edge research and developments within the sporting fraternity. As penned in our SRSA's White Paper for Sport and Recreation, the vision of the Department is to be acknowledged as a leader in world sport and recreation - including contribution to research. SASReCon is going to channel the Department towards the realisation of this vision and in return contribute to the fast-tracking of implementation of the government's National Sport & Recreation Plan.

Since its introduction in 1994, albeit then in a totally different format, the conference will be welcoming audience in sport and recreation across the board inclusive of scientists, researchers and academics, post-graduate students, and practitioners from sport bodies including all three spheres of Government. With the conference now scheduled to take place every quadrennial, it has truly become a place for meeting of minds, anticipated robust engagement and exchange of ideas, views, and knowledge on topical issues in the multiple disciplines that constitute the sport and recreation field.

This platform sets up a playing field where academic papers are going to be delivered by accomplished scholars and researchers in the field of sport, recreation and related subjects. The main conference will be supported by various mini-conferences and seminars, as well as

workshops therefore attracting practitioners from different components of the sport and recreation sector. Key to delivering a successful conference, we are going to ensure that we utilise proper evidence-based research which is key to informing the priorities of South African Sport and Recreation. SASReCon is going to also assist in generating new knowledge in the field of sport and recreation and further provide practical solutions to existing programmes whilst assisting practitioners to improve on the delivery methodology of the National Sport and Recreation Plan.

SASReCon will also be utilised as platform to empower under-developed or un-professionalised sport and recreation bodies with knowledge to professionalise and respond adequately to the needs of the sector and consequently respond to the challenges facing the country and contribute to economic growth. This will also be a platform where the delegates can be able to interrogate the value, feasibility and effectiveness of identified sport and recreation models and best practice through evidence-based research.

Delegates will also have an opportunity to contribute to the agenda of change including the transformation of South African sport and recreation; and lastly provide a platform for networking for academics, scientists, athletes and practitioners. Let me take this opportunity to once more and extend my warm welcome to all delegates for joining us in this highly interactive platform. I take this opportunity as well to extend my appreciation to all my staff for ensuring that this conference takes place.

My gratitude also goes out to all our stakeholders including the NW Province for their contribution and support. I trust that all deliberations will be productive and will contribute to the development of sport and recreation in South Africa including the continent.

TW Nxesi MP

Minister

Sport and Recreation South Africa