

22 July 2019

Attention: Ms Kirsty Coventry

Minister of Youth, Sports, Arts & Recreation

PETITION BY THE ZIMBABWE CRICKET WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

We as members of the Zimbabwe Cricket Women's National Team are writing this to register our concerns on the effects of the stance taken by the Sports & Recreation Commission (SRC) after the International Cricket Council (ICC) ruling on Thursday 18 July 2019.

This comes in a year in which we have reached milestones. Chief among them is reaching the ICC T20 Women's Cup Global qualifier stage. This is one step below the World Cup itself.

Is our country not proud of our achievements, or it is because we are women?

It is in the context of such success that the Team has not only lost out on playing time since the SRC's intervention in Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) and subsequent suspension of our country by the ICC but now sees the very soul and future of the women's game hanging in the balance.

Sacrifices:

The Lady Chevrons were in camp for the first 3 months of 2019 in preparation for the ICC T20 Women's World Cup Qualifiers Africa in May. This was an intense camp where we had to sacrifice time with our families. Our team has mothers and wives as well. They were away from their families for that long. This took its toll on us emotionally as we had to make such sacrifices to attain our goals. Physically, it was strenuous. As a sportsperson yourself, a woman and a mother we are sure you understand what it takes for a woman to prepare for a global event, the long hours of training and the emotions and lack of material comfort of being away from home to achieve your dream.

Camps and tours:

We have, to date, won all the games we have played this year. That did not happen by chance. The hard work we had put in had paid off. We won the series against Namibia, white washed them 5-0. We went on to win the Victoria series in Uganda in a Tri-series also involving Kenya. We beat all the teams at the ICC T20 Africa Qualifiers hosted in Harare which was the ticket to the Global Qualifiers in September in Scotland.

As part of our road to Scotland, we had an important tour of Ireland and Netherlands from the 29th of June to the 22nd of July 2019. On the eve of departure, we were informed that this tour had been cancelled because the ICC had frozen payments to ZC following the SRC suspension of the ZC board. We cannot even begin to express how devastating this was.

Opportunities:

Cricket has also provided us with opportunities we have not come across before. As women, we do not have a lot of opportunities coming our way regularly.

Imagine our happiness when four of us – Sharne Mayers, Tasmeen Granger, Anesu Mushangwe and myself were selected to play for the world Women's Development Global Squad in the Kia Super League tournament in Sussex, England.

In another show of confidence for the progress the women's game has made in Zimbabwe, our coach, Adam Chifo, was appointed Head Coach of that squad.

We were scheduled to travel to England on Thursday (the 25th of July 2019).

Because of the ZC suspension by the ICC, we have just been informed by the organisers that we cannot take part in the tournament.

To us, this is akin to you having been told four days before you were due to fly to Athens that you should not come any more because the Zimbabwe SRC suspended ZOC!

We have also been informed that Zimbabwe will also be kicked out of the Global Qualifier as well, a decision which will be made this week unless the ICC resolution is followed.

So we are appealing to you as a former elite sportswoman who has represented Zimbabwe at the highest level is to afford us that chance too, much as boards and ministers before you did the same for you. Much like you and most recently, the Gems, we too want to use the opportunities we have got to make our country proud.

And in the process, just like you did, also realise our dreams, fulfil our ambitions and set the foundations for our lives after sport. We know you know that the sportsperson's shelf life is limited and therefore time is of the essence.

So our question to you, Honourable Minister, is: will you stand by and watch while our dreams, our ambitions, our goals, our careers and indeed our lives, go up in smoke?

We implore you to get the SRC to give the game a chance and reinstate the recently-elected ZC board. Police action, anti-corruption action all that can always be done while we are playing and those found on the wrong side can then be arrested.

As for now only one decision needs to be made: re-instatement.

And time is running out.

Signed by



Mary-Anne Musonda – Captain , Zimbabwe Women’s National Cricket Team
on behalf of;

Tasmeen Granger – Vice Captain

Sharne Mayers

Precious Marange

Chipo Mugeru- Tiripano

Christabel Chatonzwa

Nomatter Mutasa

Nomvelo Sibanda

Loryn Phiri

Chiedza Dhururu

Esther Mbofana

Josephine Nkomo

Modester Mupachikwa

Ashley Ndiraya

Anesu Mushangwe

Audrey Mazvishaya

Ellen Tshuma

Fransesca Chipare

Chiedza Mzembe

Nyasha Gwanzura