



From the desk of
Vince van der Bijl

Vince

The Changing of the Guard

Owing to my ongoing health struggles, I have decided to step down as Managing Director of MasiSports+. It has been a difficult but necessary decision. I will, however, remain involved, particularly in high-level networking and fundraising.

MasiSports+ has been my almost singular purpose for more than a decade. It has given me enormous joy and has changed me. It has taught me much about the realities of life in a township — the hardship and devastation faced by so many, but also the remarkable resilience, warmth and cheerfulness of the community.

Above all, it is the people who have inspired me. Our coaches, staff and learners continue to amaze me with their energy, determination and ability to smile in the face of adversity. They are why MasiSports+ exists, and why it must continue to grow.

The good news

The good news is that I believe MasiSports+ is now in better hands.

Marvin Williams is our new Managing Director. Marvin has led our sports, cultural, life-skills and post-school employability programmes with distinction. Originally from Ocean View, he is well known and highly respected throughout the South Peninsula. Since joining MasiSports+, Marvin has enhanced our coaches' capacity and confidence, while our after-school activities have flourished under his leadership.

Marvin works closely with Althea Farmer, our General Manager: Operations. Althea has built a remarkably strong foundation for MasiSports+, establishing robust legal, HR, monitoring and evaluation, and governance systems. She has brought the organisation structure, discipline and stability that give us enormous confidence in the future.

Together they are a magnificent team.

A personal thank you

I want to thank every individual and organisation that has stood beside us on this extraordinary journey.

When we began in August 2017, none of us could have imagined how far MasiSports+ would grow. What started with a simple belief in the power of sport to change lives has grown into something far broader — helping young people discover confidence, capability, opportunity and a sense of what their futures might hold. Nceba Jonas, Fez Payi, Teddy Nyali and Pam Ngcwana, our original staff, are still with us today.

You have all helped make this happen.

The MCC gave us our start-up capital. Masicorp gave us our initial home in the NPO world. Alex Hetherington and the Board have provided direction, wisdom and governance, while John and Mosa le Roux have been loyal supporters and important advisers to me personally.

The principals and staff of our two schools have been key throughout, working with us to give young people opportunities many would otherwise never experience. Our programme partners have enabled us to expand into new fields, while our donors have provided the financial backbone for our growth.

And then there is our patron, Judith Neilson, and the Judith Neilson Foundation.

Judith and JNF have been extraordinary supporters and enablers of MasiSports+, providing not only financial stability but strategic advice, encouragement, and belief in what we were trying to achieve. Without Judith's support, we would not be where we are today. I sometimes think meeting Judith was destiny. Her belief in MasiSports+ and her willingness to back that belief have made an immeasurable difference.

An exciting journey ahead

I want to reassure our donors and partners that MasiSports+ now has the people, systems and leadership needed to sustain our vision and purpose well into the future. The next generation with fresh ideas will take MasiSports+ to new heights.

However, most importantly, the young people of Masiphumelele remain at the heart of it all.

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