



PRESS RELEASE – 10 Feb 2020

The first ever Human Rights Cycle Tour (HRCT) of South Africa is cancelled. It is with great regret, and concern, that we, the Exco of the HRCT, make this announcement. This decision was taken after 20 months of planning and negotiation with various stakeholders to bring the first event of its kind to the African continent.

The race was envisaged as a tribute to the countless South Africans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom from the darkness of apartheid and other human rights abuses. So our regret extends not only to our supporters and well-wishers, but particularly to our sponsors and media partners who embraced the event and selflessly committed to it their valuable resources. In this respect we gratefully acknowledge the magnanimity of Retro Active, Busy Corner Meat Hyper, Jive (The Beverage Company) and our media partners Cape Times (Independent Newspapers), Smile 90.4FM and iTV.

In addition, we thank the many thousands of cyclists who have shown interest to participate in this event. Many of them, nationally and internationally.

Given the gravity and austerity of our decision, we are obliged to expound. At the heart of our decision is our challenge of dealing with the City's bureaucracy. After submitting 17 versions of our race route over several months, our committee found that the repeated refutation of the City to officially approve the event had turned into an impasse.

In addition, the Special Events Committee (SPEVCO) of the City had not met our expectation for financial assistance in covering the costs for traffic personnel, SAPS, Disaster Management, etc. in the amount of hundreds of thousands of Rands. We deemed a reasonable expectation due to SPEVCO's routine support of other similar events.

Another contributing factor was the reneging of one of our platinum sponsors on their financial commitment to the event.

Finally, MiCity approved only the outgoing lane from Christiaan Barnard to Paarden Eiland. They refused to approve both lanes for the event from 6:30am-9:00am. With thousands of cyclists going through the lane our technical team is of the view that we will be putting cyclists at risk should we go ahead using one lane only.

The compounded impact of the above left the Exco of the HRCT with no option but to cancel the event.

We wish to assure everyone who has entered that their entry fees will be refunded in full.

Yours faithfully,

Mohamed Jaffer
Chairman – Human Rights Cycle Tour

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