

# Tracking elements of change in SA sports

WITH just days to go before the World Cup kick-off, a new book seeks to expose the state of transformation in sport in post-apartheid South Africa.

How have the state and sporting organisations sought to redress the damage caused by “one of the cruellest legacies of apartheid” on the playing fields, athletics tracks and in the swimming pools of South Africa?

Are the changes in South African sport actually reinforcing a form of class apartheid in sports? And ultimately, will the present trajectory deepen inequalities rather than progressively mitigate them?

Post-apartheid South Africa put great stock in the potential of sport to break down racial barriers and unite the nation.

Under the ANC slogan “A Better Life for All”, great expectations were raised concerning the redress of sport and recreation inequalities under apartheid.

In *The Race to Transform: Sport in post-apartheid South Africa*, nine authors examine elements of change in a number of sports arenas. Editor Ashwin Desai opens the debate with an introduction providing background to these issues.

Collectively, the chapters offer an in-depth look at how the dialectic between reformative and transformative projects play out in the context of sport.

What is clear is that the impact of nearly two decades of transformation speak has had a minimal impact on the divide between haves and have-nots.

This publication will stimulate debate, encourage people involved in sport to think more critically about policies of transformation and prod all of us to turn a more nuanced eye on sporting activities in general.

● *The Race to Transform: Sport in post-apartheid South Africa* is published by HSRC Press.

