

# SSS SPORTS FOUNDATION

SPORTS STEPPINGSTONES

2023/598298/08

103 First Avenue, Sherwood Park, 7764



**FOR RELEASE ON 10 AUGUST 2026**

## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **SAFA CAPE TOWN ADMITS ALL FREEDOM CUP FUNDS AND PROCEEDS ENTERED ITS BANK ACCOUNT — AND ADMITS IT DID NOT RENDER AN ACCOUNT TO SSS SPORTS FOUNDATION AND SPORT FOR HUMANITY**

SAFA Cape Town's contemporaneous documents publicly associated SSS with the Freedom Cup initiative; SSS says only R64 900 in vendor fees reached the Sport for Humanity account, while Mr Bennett Bailey later publicly presented a R100 000 cheque and, according to SSS, the underlying ledger and source documents remain undisclosed.

**Issued by:** SSS Sports Foundation NPC t/a Sport Stepping Stones  
**Court matter:** Western Cape High Court, Western Cape Division, Cape Town  
**Status:** Civil proceedings pending; no findings have yet been made

***“SAFA Cape Town cannot publicly associate SSS with the Freedom Cup initiative, admit that all Freedom Cup funds and proceeds entered its own bank account, and then admit that it did not render an account to SSS Sports Foundation and Sport for Humanity. Its own documents, Plea and public statements require reconciliation.”***

**CAPE TOWN** — SSS Sports Foundation NPC t/a Sport Stepping Stones (“SSS”) confirms that it and Sport for Humanity NPC instituted civil proceedings in February 2026 against the South African Football Association – Cape Town Region (“SAFA Cape Town”) and Mr Bennett Kenneth Bailey. The action arises from the financial administration and public characterisation of the Freedom Cup / Football for Humanity matches held in Cape Town on 11 and 18 February 2024.

The dispute is not an attack on humanitarian relief. It concerns who controlled the event money, what was received, how it was spent, what was disbursed for the stated humanitarian purpose, and why SSS says it still has not received a full, voucher-backed account despite repeated demands.

### **What SAFA Cape Town and Mr Bailey admit in their Plea**

In their Plea dated 7 April 2026, SAFA Cape Town and Mr Bailey admit that:

- **all funds and proceeds related to the Freedom Cup were deposited into SAFA Cape Town's bank account;**
- **SAFA Cape Town's bank account details were furnished to sponsors and donors in relation to the Freedom Cup;**
- **SAFA Cape Town failed to render an account to SSS Sports Foundation and Sport for Humanity in relation to the Freedom Cup; and**

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- **Mr Bailey was SAFA Cape Town’s President and, at the same time, a director of Sport for Humanity when the Freedom Cup was organised.**

For fairness and completeness, SAFA Cape Town and Mr Bailey also deny that any agreement of the kind pleaded existed; deny breach, diversion, fiduciary liability, damages and unjust enrichment; contend that there was no basis for SSS Sports Foundation and Sport for Humanity to demand an account; and seek dismissal of the action with costs. Those disputes remain for the Court. Nothing in this statement should be read as a judicial finding.

## **SAFA Cape Town’s contemporaneous documents publicly associated SSS with the initiative**

Before the dispute arose, SAFA Cape Town’s own contemporaneous records publicly associated SSS with the project. Circular 003/2024 announced that SAFA Cape Town and SSS Foundation would be hosting the Palestinian Football Association for two football games in Cape Town. The operational rollout plan records that the “third partnership between SAFA CT and SSS is in place to jointly host the event” and allocates leadership and implementation functions across the project structure.

These are contemporaneous project records, not descriptions invented after litigation began. To the extent that SAFA Cape Town later sought to distance itself from aspects of the initiative’s structure or financial activities, that position appears to require reconciliation with its own earlier documents and with its later Plea admitting that all Freedom Cup funds and proceeds entered SAFA Cape Town’s bank account.

## **The paper trail reflects an apparent inconsistency that SSS says should be explained by the primary records**

On the one hand, SAFA Cape Town now admits in its Plea that all funds and proceeds related to the Freedom Cup were deposited into its own bank account. On the other hand, SSS and Sport for Humanity publicly recorded on 18 June 2024 that neither organisation received ticket-sale proceeds or donations from private or government funders, and that the only event-related receipts under their control were **R64 900** paid into the Sport for Humanity account by vendors and food trucks.

That 18 June 2024 statement further recorded expenses of **R64 203** and a remaining balance of **R696.95**, with reference to the supporting cash book. That is SSS and Sport for Humanity’s account; it is not yet a judicial finding.

SSS’s position is that the quickest way to resolve any factual dispute is by disclosure of the primary records, including:

- bank statements;
- Ticketpro reconciliations;
- sponsor and donor schedules;
- invoices and vouchers; and

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- proof of disbursements.

## **The R100 000 cheque presentation does not replace a full accounting**

On 15 September 2025, Mr Bailey publicly announced: **“Today SAFA CT donated R100 000 to Gift of the Givers to continue with their humanitarian work in Palestine and elsewhere.”** Photographs show him publicly presenting a cheque marked “in aid of Palestine” and bearing the words “Presented by Mr B. Bailey, SAFA Cape Town.”

SSS makes no allegation against Gift of the Givers and respects its humanitarian work. The issue raised in the litigation is the source, authorisation and accounting of money controlled by SAFA Cape Town. A cheque handover is not a full accounting. It does not, without more, disclose the total revenue received, the full expense trail, the balance retained, or the basis upon which R100 000 was selected and disbursed.

## **Mr Bailey held roles in both SAFA Cape Town and Sport for Humanity at the time of the Freedom Cup**

SAFA Cape Town and Mr Bailey admit that he was both:

- President of SAFA Cape Town; and
- a director of Sport for Humanity,

at the time when the Freedom Cup was organised.

SSS has pleaded that this dual role carried fiduciary and good-faith obligations and that Mr Bailey should be held personally liable if the Court finds that funds were diverted or withheld through breach of those duties. Mr Bailey and SAFA Cape Town deny liability, and that issue will be determined by the Court.

## **Mr Bailey is no longer a director of Sport for Humanity**

Sport for Humanity’s signed board minutes and resolution record that Mr Bailey was removed as a director with immediate effect on 6 February 2026. A CIPC COR39 certificate dated 11 February 2026 records the change in his status from active to removed. SSS accordingly records that Mr Bailey is no longer a director of Sport for Humanity and is not authorised to speak on behalf of SSS.

That removal is a corporate governance fact, not a judicial finding on the merits of the pending High Court action.

## **SSS seeks the books, not trial by headline**

SSS’s Particulars of Claim presently estimate the Freedom Cup net profit at approximately **R1 729 400**. That figure is expressly pleaded as an estimate, is disputed by SAFA Cape Town and Mr Bailey, and is not presented by SSS as an audited or judicially established amount.

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SSS's case is that the exact figure cannot responsibly be determined without the accounting, bank records, source documents and vouchers that form part of the relief sought in the action.

SSS Sports Foundation and Sport for Humanity ask the High Court to:

- direct a full, true and proper accounting;
- permit debate of that account;
- order payment of amounts found to be owing;
- determine the pleaded fiduciary claim against Mr Bailey; and
- adjudicate SSS's claims for out-of-pocket expenditure, its alleged contractual share, and reputational harm.

SSS and Sport for Humanity formally indicated their willingness to mediate under Uniform Rule 41A. After repeated demands failed to produce the requested account, the litigation proceeded. The matter is now advancing through pleadings and discovery.

## **Questions SSS says remain unanswered**

SSS says the following questions remain unanswered and should ultimately be addressed on the documents and in court:

1. What was the total gross amount received from ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, suite sales, vendor fees and every other Freedom Cup revenue stream?
2. Will SAFA Cape Town disclose the complete bank statements, Ticketpro reconciliations, sponsor and donor schedules, invoices, vouchers and proof of disbursements?
3. What was the source of the R100 000 presented on 15 September 2025, who authorised it, and was it drawn from Freedom Cup or related Palestine-project funds?
4. How does SAFA Cape Town reconcile its public and project documents with its present litigation position?
5. On what records does any contention rest that material event funds were deposited into SSS or Sport for Humanity accounts, when SSS says only R64 900 in vendor and food-truck fees reached the Sport for Humanity account?
6. Why was no full account rendered despite requests dating from June 2024, formal demands in September 2025 and the subsequent court action?

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“Humanitarian work is not an exemption from accounting. The shortest path to ending speculation is simple: produce the source documents, open the books and account for every rand.”

SSS says it will protect the integrity of the pending proceedings. Its witnesses and directors will not conduct separate media interviews on disputed evidence.

— ENDS —

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## Note to editors and source record

- Copies of the relevant pleadings and supporting documents can be made available to accredited journalists for verification, subject to lawful redaction of personal and banking information.