

# SA Olympic kit: Sascoc criticised for using foreign suppliers

*Cape Times* reports that the Trade and Industry Department criticised a South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee's (Sascoc's) decision to use foreign suppliers to make the kit for the SA Olympic and Paralympic Games teams "despite competitive capabilities available among domestic manufacturers and represents a lost opportunity in terms of domestic sales and jobs," the department said.



Sascoc had also come under fire from the SA Clothing and Textile Workers Union, the Proudly South African "buy local" campaign and Cosatu.

Earlier this month, Sascoc president Gideon Sam said the kit, which would serve the teams for both the 2012 London Olympic Games and the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, would be produced by Chinese manufacturer Erke. Sam defended the decision, saying Erke had provided a sponsorship valued at about R29m, and that no South African company had been willing to take it up. However, the department said South Africa's textiles, clothing, leather and footwear Manufacturers should receive the support of all local procurement agents, as they were showing signs of recovery and stability. According to the *Cape Times*, the department said that Sascoc's decision was disappointing.

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