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4 November 2008 - French Parliamentary Rugby Team visit their South African counterparts

Parliament's rugby team is hosting a week-long visit by their French counterparts this week, as part of traditional exchange visits that started in 1995 when South Africa hosted the International Rugby Boards World Cup tournament.

A highlight of the visit is a match between the two teams on Wednesday evening at Boland Stadium in Wellington in the Western Cape.

Parliament's rugby club comprises Members of Parliament (National Assembly MP Jonathan Arendse is chairperson of the club), Parliamentary staff members and specially invited guest players.

While in Cape Town, the French Parliamentary rugby team will tour Parliament and visit the Groot Drakenstein (formerly Victor Verster) Prison in Paarl, where former President Nelson Mandela spent his last 27 years in prison before being released in February 1990.

They will also take trips to Cape Town townships - they plan to hold one of their practice sessions in Nyanga - and tour the Western Capes world-renowned winelands.

Official meetings include those with Western Cape MEC for Sport and Cultural Affairs Cameron Dugmore and mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality Clarence Johnson.

The team leaves South Africa on Thursday.

Issued by the Parliament of Republic of South Africa.

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