



17 June 2020

## **MEC LIMAKATSO MAHASA EXTENDS MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING ON OF MR MIKE MOKOENA**

A giant in the soccer fraternity has fallen! The untimely passing on of Mr Michael “Mike” Mokoena, the chairman of Free State Football Club, has come as a shock to the Free State Provincial Government and the entire Football loving fraternity in the country.

Bra Mike, as he was popularly known in the Football fraternity and in the general society, lived his life to the fullest and contributed immensely to the development of Football in the Free State. The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) responsible for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR) in the Free State, Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa, would like to extend her deepest condolences to the family, relatives, friends and colleagues of Mr Mokoena. “We are indeed saddened by this untimely passing on of Mr Mokoena. As the Free State we still expected a lot from him”, commented MEC Mahasa.

It is reported that Mr Mokoena passed on 17 June 2020 after his protracted battle with cancer. The Department of SACR will continue to appreciate the role that Mr Mokoena played in developing and promoting sport, Football in particular, in the Free State and indeed in the country. Free State Stars was one of the only two teams from the Free State to play in the national Premier Soccer League (PSL) alongside Bloemfontein Celtic.

Indeed Free State Stars contributed immensely in placing the Free State Province on the map as a result of Mr Mokoena’s leadership. Despite being relegated at the end of the 2018/19 PSL season, Free State Stars continues to prove themselves as worthy contenders in the National First Division

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league. This tenacity of the club proves the kind of leadership that Mr. Mokoena had on the team.

Commenting further about Mr. Mokoena's departure, MEC Mahasa asserted that: "The Free State Provincial Government through the Department of SACR invested a lot in the development of Free State Stars with an annual financial injection into the club. The Department also availed its elite sport training institute, the Free State Sport Science Institute, to teams such as Free State Stars for training purposes and specifically sport science services."

May the departed spirit of Mr Mokoena rest in eternal peace!

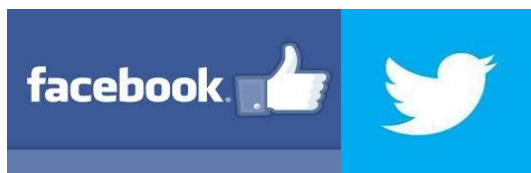
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**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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