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RESPONSE TO REPORTS ON STATE OF CHARLES MOPELI STADIUM

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR) has noted social media reports about the current state of Charles Mopeli stadium in QwaQwa, Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. While the Department understands and appreciates the concerns raised by members of the public about the state of the stadium, we simultaneously wish to allay the fears as in all earnest hence there is no cause for concern or panic.

Indeed at the face of it the stadium may appear neglected and derelict, with overgrown grass in the pitch but having interacted with the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, who are the custodians of the stadium, the following facts need to be clarified:

1. The stadium is undergoing phased refurbishment and upgrade process spearheaded by the municipality.
2. Maintenance of the stadium has been suspended until the refurbishment and upgrades process is completed, hence its current state.
3. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the stadium has been closed off from the public while upgrades are scheduled to take place.

The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Ms Limakatso Mahasa, committed to assisting the Municipality with fast-tracking the completion of the stadium.

"The Department commits itself to working closely with the municipality to ensure that whatever challenges might be encountered in ensuring the speedy completion of different phases are addressed. Charles Mopeli stadium is the pride of the community of QwaQwa and the Free State in general.

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Everything possible will therefore be done to ensure speedy completion of the stadium", noted MEC Mahasa.

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

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