



17 October 2022

DSARC TO HOST PROVINCIAL RURAL SPORT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FINALS

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, in partnership with the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Maluti A Phofung Local Municipality, Free State House of Traditional Leaders, Netball, Football and Athletics Federations will on the 22 October 2022, be hosting the annual Provincial Rural Sport Development Programme provincial finals in Phuthaditjhaba, Qwaqwa.

The Rural Sport Development programme (RSDP) is aimed at developing sport and providing a platform for the youth in rural areas to showcase their talents in various sporting codes such as netball and football. The programme is focused on areas that are under Traditional Leadership. This programme was launched nationally in 2016.

The programme currently has sixty-five (65) U/13 & sixty-eight (68) U/15 male football clubs and eight (8) female football clubs. We also have ten (10) U/15 netball & eight (8) under nineteen clubs and eight (8) athletics clubs.

All these clubs took part in leagues as per their streams and have registered with the relevant federations. These leagues started in April 2022 and the two teams topping the log will represent their streams at the finals scheduled to take place under the following arrangements:

DATE: 22 October 2022

VENUE: Phuthaditjhaba Stadium, Qwaqwa

TIME: 08:00 till late.

Since the conceptualization of the programme in the year 2017. The programme has grown in leaps and bounds. Athletes, coaches, and technical officials have reaped the benefits of this programme through accredited coaches and technical officials' trainings.

Through the programme, talented players are afforded an opportunity to attend the trials at SAFA Transnet School of Excellence. Myelazi Mofokeng is one player of

note who is a beneficiary of the Rural Sport Development Programme. The RSDP leagues developed and sparked his sporting career in an astounding way. The programme further prides itself with qualified football coaches holding D-License (a course that allows the coach to train children and youth) and CAF C-license (a course that trains coaches and develops their basic techniques and skills in football). Netball also has level 1 coaches and umpires.

There will also be handover of attire and playing equipment to identified beneficiaries of Netball, Volleyball, Cricket and Softball. The planned hand over will take place on the 23rd of October 2022 at the, Phuthaditjhaba Multipurpose Hall at 10h00.

Reflecting on this programme, the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa, noted "it is government's responsibility to equip rural communities so they are not left out on the basis of where they come from. Sport has also proven to be an effective way of combating social ills such as substance abuse and Gender Based Violence. Keeping the youth busy with sporting activities leaves them with very little to no time for mischievous activities".

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

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