

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**20 October 2021**

**MEDIA STATEMENT ON THE MATATIELE SPORTS CENTRE STATUS**

Matatiele Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Momelezi Mbedla refutes the claims making rounds in the media that exorbitant amounts were paid to constructors during the construction of Matatiele Sports Centre while the facility is not complete.

The council of Matatiele Local Municipality in 2016 adopted an Integrated Development Planning (IDP) document to guide development within the area during its term of office. The overall aim was to effectively deliver services and improve the lives of the people of Matatiele.

This plan included priorities from all 26 wards comprising of a priority from ward 20 for a construction and development of a multi-purpose sports centre.

“The claims that the multi-purpose sports facility is complete are not true, we reiterate without any fear of contradiction that we are still on phase 1 of this multi-million project. The project is implemented in phases as the Municipality does not have enough financial resources to construct the sport field of such value in one financial year, hence the two phases,” said Mayor Mbedla.

Municipal Finance Management Act and Supply Chain Management processes were followed, where an open tender was issued on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 calling for suppliers to submit bids.

The Municipality then appointed Umpisi Consulting Engineers for an amount of R 4 100 000.00 for planning, feasibility study, design, administration and procurement, construction supervision and monitoring the quality of work done on site, preparing payment certificates as per the work done on site by the contractor and close-out report for the project.

Sivivane Construction was appointed as a main contractor at an amount of R 20 693 244.31. The first phase of the Matatiele Sports Centre started on the 05<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 and as per the revised completion date, the work will be completed by the end of December 2021.

During the phase one of the project the following work has been completed:

- Site establishment
- Bulk excavation
- Disposal of spoil material
- Embankment filling to platform level
- Construction of selected layers of platform
- Constriction of storm water drainage system

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- Construction of manholes, sub- soil drainage system for both football pitch and running track
- Construction of clear vu fencing and gate for the site
- Construction of G5 subbase layer for football and running track
- Installation of kerbing around the football pitch and running track
- Construction of G2 base layer for football and running track
- Concrete v-drain

Priming and laying of 30mm thick Asphalt along the Running Track is at 70% and the supply and delivery of an artificial turf for the football pitch by a nominated specialist sub-contractor, project commissioning has been ordered and awaiting delivery.

“We are pleased to announce that the first phase of the project is sitting at 86% and the contractor is still on site awaiting the delivery of the artificial turf. The material has arrived in South Africa but due to Covid-19 pandemic and processes of despatching the material from the harbour to Matatiele has since been delayed. Once the material is despatched from the harbour, the installation will take about four to six weeks to complete, marking the completion of phase 1”, said the Municipal Manager, Mr. Lizo Matiwane.

Phase 2 of the project will commence following the completion of the first phase and it will include change rooms with ablution facilities (toilets), combo court, grand stands, guard house and flood lights.

Mayor Mbedla reiterated the commitments made by the outgoing council that they remained committed in ensuring the public resources are used in an efficient and effective manner and all those disputing the facts are invited to visit the facility for further assessments and evaluation.

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**Issued by Matatiele Local Municipality**