



Draft Media Statement delivered by Mayor Zandile Gumede held at Moses Mabhida Stadium to address violent incidents during Nedbank Cup

Date: 25 April 2018, Venue: Press Conference Room 1, MMS

On behalf of the people of this city of eThekweni, we would like to thank you for joining us in this important press conference in response to incidents of violence that took place during the Nedbank Cup Semi-Final between Kaizer Chiefs and Free State Stars at Moses Mabhida Stadium on the 21st of April 2018.

Firstly, I categorically condemn the violence, destruction of property and hooliganism that was displayed in the full view of the world on Saturday. No amount of frustration and anger should lead one to cause violence and injure other citizens in the name of sport.

Lovers of sport are expected to understand the game better because by nature you either win or lose. If you lose nobody must be threatened and no property must be destroyed. The unfortunate events of the weekend are a bad reflection on us as a nation and we hope that the police will find all the perpetrators. This year is the year of Mandela and he was a man of peace, we must at all times incarnate the values of peace, tolerance and love. We are grateful that there was no loss of life and those who were admitted to hospital were later discharged.

After the events of the weekend, we requested the management of the stadium to compile a detailed report which is what we are presenting to you today. We received a report detailing the damages and also a medical report about those who got injured including one of our stadium employees who suffered minor injuries.

As per the report from the medical service provider, the following is a list of patients that were treated during the pitch invasion; a total of 18 patients were attended to.

- 12 patients were treated on site at the stadium
- 6 patients were taken to hospital and received treatment and later discharged
- 1 Mabhida Stadium employee suffered minor injuries and received first aid on site

We have a long list of damaged items or property which includes the pitch, our goal posts, speed fencing, crowd management barriers, bins, water points, dinner plates, glasses, chairs, tables and many others.

The total estimate is sitting at R2,6 million. Claims are being initiated against the relevant existing insurance covers and the administrative processes are underway.

State of the stadium

The stadium is functional and working smoothly despite the events of the weekend. We have not made any cancellation in terms of our bookings, in fact on Sunday we hosted an event without hindrances. Importantly, the multi-disciplinary nature of the stadium's design, permits it to host a wide range of sporting and cultural events. We are not just a sporting stadium, we have a host of other things including the SkyCar. We are inviting tourists and citizens to enjoy our park, gym and many other things.

Durban has the ability to host multiple events in one precinct around the stadium at the same time. We have done it in the past and we will continue to do so. There is no reason not to hold several events around the precinct at the same time. We have a rugby stadium, People's Park, athletics stadium, swimming pool and a golf course – and we have capacity to manage those in one day.

Security

The security of the game was the sole responsibility of South African Police Services as stipulated by the SASREA Act. Our role was to provide the venue and infrastructure which we fulfilled. We are encouraged by the swift response of the South African Police Services who have already confirmed the arrests of two people in connection with these unlawful acts. We are hoping for more arrests and we urge the public to work with the police, as we are too.

We are grateful to all law enforcement agencies including our Metro Police who responded and dealt with the situation.

In closing, we congratulate Free State Stars and Maritzburg United for winning the weekend matches and we hope that Maritzburg United will bring the Cup to KZN. Congratulations to Abafana Besithende for winning against Chiefs at Princess Magogo Stadium last night.

-Ends-