

## **MEDIA** RESPONSE

26 May 2023 GroundUp News

## Media Enquiry

**Good morning Mr Mosuwe and Ms Mokoatle** 

I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Masego Mafata and I am a reporter at GroundUp News. I am doing research for an article about an incomplete sports complex in Protea Glen. Please see the context and questions below. I would greatly appreciate it if you could respond to this email by Wednesday, 24 May at 12:00.

An organisation called Motheo Sports and Entertainment Foundation received money from the National Lotteries Commission to build a sports complex in Protea Glen in 2021. According to the ward councillor in the area, the development has come to a halt because the land upon which the sports complex is supposed to be built belongs to the Gauteng provincial government.

1. According to Mr Petrus Sedibe, a member of the Motheo Sports and Entertainment Foundation, Motheo and the Gauteng Department of Education entered into a site usage and maintenance agreement regarding the use of the land in question. The plot of land (ERF 3841) is located on Red Current Street in Protea Glen, Soweto and the map coordinates are as follows:

https://www.google.com/maps/place/26%C2%B016'50.2%22S+27%C2%B049'07.0%22E/@-

26.2806028,27.8164309,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x0:0x6b90 5e98c064fe4e!8m2!3d-

26.2806028!4d27.8186196?hl=en

1.1. I have attached the site usage and maintenance agreement, which Sedibe and some witnesses have signed. Please may you confirm if this is in fact a legitimate site usage and maintenance agreement that was entered into by the Gauteng Department of Education and Motheo?

Media Response

The Department can confirm that the MoU was only signed by one party and is therefore not a valid agreement. It must be noted that it is technically not within the mandate of the GDE to enter into agreements with third parties for the use of vacant land but that of the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development (GDID) as the Custodian of the Immovable Assets of the Gauteng Provincial Government. However, the GDE was not willing to surrender the land for the construction of a new school in the future accordingly.

## 1.2. When was this agreement drafted?

## Media Response

The agreement was drafted in 2022-23 Financial Year.

1.3. When did Motheo approach the GDE to request permission to build on the land?

#### Media Response

In 2022.

1.3. Was there a delay between when the agreement was drafted and signed? if so, what was the reason for this?

## Media Response

Refer response to 1.1.

- 2. A ward councillor in Protea Glen said she was told by representatives from Motheo that development on the land was halted because they were still in the process of negotiating the ownership and development of the land with the Gauteng Department of Education.
- 2.1. What is being negotiated by the GDE and Motheo?

## Media Response

The Department can confirm that indeed, Motheo approached the GDE requesting use of the entire property for the construction of the sports complex. However, it was clearly specified that this would not be possible as the Department will require the property for the construction of a new school in future.

2.2. Why are negotiations still taking place when a site usage and maintenance agreement was drafted and signed?

## Media Response

Motheo was informed on Tuesday, 4 April 2023 that due to the reasons mentioned above the GDE will not be entering into an agreement with them and will not be surrendering the property to the GDID. It will therefore not be possible for the Sports Complex to be built on the property. Therefore, negotiations are no longer taking place.

# 2.3. What resolutions have been reached in the negotiations and had Motheo received permission to build on the land?

#### Media Response

Accordingly, permission was not granted to Motheo to build on the land.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona.

For more updates regarding GDE related news and information, follow us on our website and social media platforms:

Facebook: The Gauteng Department of Education

Twitter: @EducationGP1

Instagram: <a href="mailto:ogautengdepartmentofeducation">ogautengdepartmentofeducation</a>

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Gauteng Provincial Government's portal at <a href="https://www.gauteng.gov.za">www.gauteng.gov.za</a>

**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education**