



**PREMIER SOCCER LEAGUE**

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**BRIEFING TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON SPORT & RECREATION BY  
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE**

**COMMITTEE CHAMBER; THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT; PARLIAMENT  
STREET; CAPE TOWN ON TUESDAY, 8 MAY 2018 AT 09H30.**

**ADDRESS BY DR. IRVIN KHOZA – CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL SOCCER  
LEAGUE**

**SPECTATOR PUBLIC VIOLENCE INCIDENT – NEDBANK CUP SEMI-FINAL, MOSES  
MABHIDA STADIUM, SATURDAY, 21 APRIL 2018:**

Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Sport & Recreation, my Colleagues on the National Executive Committee of the National Soccer League, Committee Secretary, Ladies and Gentleman – all Protocol Observed.

We are present here today pursuant to your official request dated 24 April 2018 for the Premier Soccer League (National Soccer League) to brief your Honourable Committee on aspects relating to, and I quote from your invitation to the briefing - *“the violent and chaotic scenes witnessed at Moses Mabhida Stadium on Saturday, 21 April 2018”*.

Before I commence with our briefing, may I take this opportunity to introduce you to the Executive Committee members of the National Soccer League. From my left Mr Kaizer Motaung, Mr David Thidiela, Mr Khumbulani Konco, Ms Mato Madlala, Dr Rejoice Simelane, Mr Jose Ferreira and Mr. Stanley Matthews. I would also like to introduce Mr Michael Murphy our Legal Counsel and Mr Mulalo Razwinani the Company Secretary.

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Honourable Chairperson and members of this Committee - let me categorically state right up front that the EXCO of the National Soccer League, like you and your Committee, were and remain shocked, extremely disappointed and concerned regarding the unacceptable events at Moses Mabhida Stadium.

We also condemn, in the strongest terms, the tarnishing of our Country's national and sporting image by the criminals who perpetrated those unspeakable acts on 21 April 2018.

We would also like to place on record that the League takes, very seriously, those specific legislative responsibilities placed upon us to play its role regarding the ensuring of the safety of the literally millions of law abiding valid ticket holding members of the public, players, officials, match support staff who annually attend League sanctioned professional football matches across our country.

We welcome and appreciate the steps your Committee has initiated in respect of this incident, and in particular, the insightful enquiries you have raised in your official request addressed to us in connection with the incident.

In this regard, we confirm to you that our League will do everything possible within its power to assist you and your Honourable Committee and our Government, to address the increasing trend, in recent times, of violent and chaotic acts of criminality, at local professional football matches.

Furthermore, the League, our EXCO and I are absolutely committed to assist and cooperate with you and your Portfolio Committee in every way possible and to take all reasonable steps, on a collaborative basis, in consultation with all key stakeholders, to deal with and sterilize this very real challenge facing our Country - and its most popular sport.

Our commitment to this process is evidenced by the fact that, even prior to the shocking events at Moses Mabhida on 21 April 2018, the League, having already recognized the increasing risks of criminality and public violence at professional football matches, held the first of a planned series of joint meetings with the Honourable Ministers of Sport and Recreation SA and the Minister for Safety and Security for Safety and Security, in Johannesburg, during March 2018.

### The Ministerial Intervention

As you and your Honourable Committee have no doubt learned in the interim, we attended a similar briefing session to the one requested by you for today, in Johannesburg, on 26 April 2018, with a delegation headed by our Minister of Sport & Recreation SA, the Honourable Ms. Tokozile Xasa MP. At that meeting we presented a documented interim report, on the Moses Mabhida incident, to the Honourable Minister.

As communicated to the Honourable Minister at that meeting, and is the case presently, the League is still involved in fully investigating and collecting the facts, as opposed to reported statements, regarding the incident.

As your Honourable Committee is also aware, the Sports and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act no. 2 of 2010 ("SASREA")) places a collective responsibility on a number of key safety and security stakeholders, including the South African Police Services ("SAPS"), through an SAPS chaired Event Safety and Security Planning Committee ("ESSPC"), for the securing of SAPS categorized Medium and High Risk football matches – such as the Match hosted at Moses Mabhida Stadium on 21 April 2018.

As such, we are also still involved in an auditing and validation process in respect of the:

- contingency and operational planning;
- SASREA compliance documentation; and
- Match Day deliverables

furnished to us by certain of these stakeholders.

This is in order that we may finalize our investigation into the incident and be placed in an informed position to contribute fully and meaningfully to processes convened by our Government to fully identify and bring an end to the unacceptable increase in serious violence and criminality at higher attendance football matches involving the more popular professional football clubs.

### Proposed Official Enquiry by the Minister of Sport and Recreation SA

The League has learnt of the proposed calling, by the Honourable Minister of Sport and Recreation, of an Official Enquiry broader in terms than that which

the previous Honourable Minister wished to call in respect of the tragic incident, which also involved breaches of public order and criminality, which occurred at our National Stadium (FNB Stadium) on 29 July 2017.

We wish to respectfully state that the National Soccer League supports the proposed calling of such an Enquiry. The League also respectfully calls on your Honourable Committee, if it has not already done so already, to allow the Minister to convene such an Enquiry.

In our respectful view, it is aligned with your current initiatives and steps in respect of the Moses Mabhida Stadium incident and will prevent duplication of effort within the legislative and administrative arm of our Government responsible for Sport and Recreation in South Africa.

This is particularly in view of the fact that it is our understanding that all key SASREA ESSPC stakeholders, including those Constitutionally and legislatively responsible for the provision of:

- sufficient and necessary safety and security resourcing, deployments and measures;
- adequate policing and the prevention of crime; and
- the maintenance of public order

at professional football matches, would be requested to participate in the proposed Enquiry.

#### Lessons Learned and Identification and Implementation of Measures to Prevent Similar Incidents in Future.

The National Soccer Leagues position on the increasing trend of public violence and criminality at professional football is quite simple – there needs to be a separation of criminals from the millions of football loving law abiding members of public who annually attend professional football matches across our country.

The League is not legislatively empowered or resourced to execute this alone.

Sadly, it appears that the elevated levels of criminality, unlawfulness and violence within our society, is increasingly manifesting itself at professional football matches.

It will require a concerted and sustained multi-stakeholder effort involving Government, the State Security Services and all key SASREA ESSPC stakeholders, including the SAPS, emergency and essential services, national controlling bodies, event organizers, stadium owners, stadium management, and the private security industry to bring an end to this un-acceptable trend.

Finger-pointing exercises will also, in our respectful view, not remedy the challenges faced. From the Leagues perspective, we will adopt a solution orientated approach in respect of our participation in Government convened processes aimed at remedying the challenges faced. Historical SASREA regulatory and compliance gaps will, it is respectfully submitted, also have to be addressed as part of such processes.

Finally, thank you Honourable Chairperson and Honourable Committee members for the opportunity to brief and address you.

Thank you also for your on-going interest, in the affairs of the League and matters of public safety, at local professional football matches.

I now make myself available to answer any questions you may have in respect of our submission to you.

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**DR IRVIN KHOZA**  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE**