



FREE STATE STADIUM PROGRESS REPORT AS AT THE END OF APRIL 08

1. Overall stadium upgrading progress

The construction work at the stadium is progress reasonably well, however the last period revealed a number of key challenges to be overcome. The challenges faced related to the following.

- **Strike action**

A number of illegal strikes actions took place since December 2007. Again during January 2008, February 2008 and March 2008 the strike actions continued. Initially time lost due to each strike action was in the region of 2 days for each incident. However during March 2008, the strike action resulted in production loss for a period of two full weeks. The main attributing factor regarding all the strikes actions related to the workers demanding payment for bonuses. The time lost as a result of strike actions is estimated at about three weeks in total. The matter has now been resolved and the work environment has returned to normal. The Contractor is already implementing a recovery plan get the programme back on track.

- **Use of stadium for rugby and soccer matches**

The Contractor has raised concerns regarding perceived disruptions on his programme due to the continuous use of the stadium for soccer and rugby matches hosted during the construction. Discussions are currently on going between Mangaung Local Municipality and the Contractor to mitigate the risks involved. A decision has already been taken to make the entire area on the western pavilion where the upgrading work is taking place, as a no go area.

2. Construction progress

Construction work is about 40% completed at this stage. Below is the detailed breakdown.

- **Demolition and piling work:**

- a. Critical demolition work now complete
- b. Roof demolition is 99% complete

- **Concrete work to floor slabs:**

- c. Zone 1 floor slab casting is almost complete
- d. Slab on Zone 2 is in progress
- e. Ramp footings have started early

- **New entertainment venue:**

- f. This gazebo area on the northern side is complete.
- g. *A decision is needed whether to do the same on the southern side to align this to the soccer and rugby feel of the legacy stadium*

- **Labour**

- h. About 340 labour force is working on site, with local component comprising of more than 80% of the total workforce
- i. About eight Leaner Contractors from the Mangaung Expanded Public Works Programme will be utilized as part of the construction plan for capacity building

3. Concluding remarks

Overall, despite the challenges highlighted above and considering the original completion date of the 31st of August 2008, the upgrading of the Free State stadium will still be completed well ahead of the FIFA deadline of 31 December 2008. The practical completion date is now envisaged to be during September 2008. Thus the city is well on track in respect of meeting the FIFA deadline.

