Seisa Ramabodu Stadium officially opened and renamed Dr Rantlai Petrus Molemela

On 21 October 2015, the Free State Provincial Government officially re-opened the refurbishment Seisa Ramabodu Stadium. The Stadium precinct has been developed to cater for the different sporting needs of the Free State Community. It is also built to host soccer matches and to furnish various needs of the community through its sophisticated new facilities. The first phase of the upgrade work to the facility was undertaken on 29 April 2013 and the second phase was completed on 30 August 2015.

This 18 000 seater capacity stadium will enable the Free State Community to host “her” soccer matches, netball and other related events and cultural events. The programme of the day started with a Big Walk (led by the Provincial Government Leadership including those from Mangaung Metro), that saw scores of locals join-in to make sure that they live a heathy lifestyle.

The three hot-starting-points of the Big Walk were, the Maphikela Square at Batho Location, Outdoor Sports Centre and the Twin City in Heidedal. MEC Dora Kotzee led the enthusiastic crowds of about 450 community members from the starting point of Twin City on the day.

The official opening of this much awaited facility was graced by the presence and participation in the morning Big Walk of the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Fikile Mbalula MP, Free State Premier Ace Magashule, MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Dora Kotzee, MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mathabo Leeto, Executive mayor of Mangaung, Thabo Manyoni and other MEC’s and HOD’s from the FSPG.

“The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure is proud to deliver this flagship infrastructure project, particularly to its owners, the community of the Free State,” MEC Kotzee alluded in her speech.

As MEC Kotzee shared her message with masses in the open stands and in the grand pavilion she further said, “this is the prime of the Freedom Charter wherein it is stated that the people shall s hare in the Wealth of the Country.”

Premier Ace Magashule also announced the name change of the stadium to Dr. Rantlai Petrus Molemela, who is Bloemfontein Celtic Honorary Life President.

Dr. Molemela was humbled by the gesture: ***"I am fortunate to be alive in this day-in-age and I am totally humbled and thankful that I am still respected by "People's Team" Bloemfontein Celtic – Siwelele sama Sele and the people of Bloemfontein,"*** Dr Molemela alluded in in his name change acceptance speech.

Minister *"Razmatazz,"* Fikile Mbalula also congratulated the Free State Provincial Government with the great work of making sure that the local community of Mangaung and Free State at large, "today the Premier, Mayor and the MEC have done an excellent job. I want to declare you as a bunch of winners,"