



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES: REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Media Advisory
For Immediate Use
21 June 2022**

Minister Lamola enables young people to take part in sport through an upgraded sporting field

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, will hand over a newly upgraded Sport Field to the community of Concordia, Knysna, Western Cape on Thursday, 23 June 2022.

The Sport Field was upgraded through utilization of Offender Labour in line with the Department of Correctional Services' Self Sustainability and Sufficiency Framework. Yet another testimony that offenders are no longer sitting idle in their cells during their period of incarceration. They produce their own food, uniform as well as contribute towards community empowerment initiatives as a way of showing remorse and paying back for the harm they caused to the communities.

Through implementation of the Self Sustainability and Sufficiency Framework, DCS is estimating a saving of R163 million to its budget for the 2022/23 Financial Year. This will contribute positively towards the fiscus which is depleted as a result of economic challenges.

This is a return visit by Minister Lamola to Knysna as he interacted with members of the community and stakeholders last year in an effort to create safer communities. He was told about lack of recreational facilities and neglected and dilapidated sporting facility in the area which deprived young people opportunities to participate in sport resulting in some taking part in criminal activities.

Minister Lamola promised the Knysna community that working together with the Knysna Local Municipality, DCS will upgrade the sporting facility to ensure that young people are provided an opportunity to utilise their youthful energy positively and harness their sporting talent.

The Knysna Local Municipality provided an alternative training facility to allow the Sport Field to be upgraded and other support in terms of machinery and equipment during the upgrade. Following the good work by offenders and DCS artisans, the facility now boasts a secure fence, well grassed pitch, rugby, soccer and netball poles as well as clear markings which will enable competitive sporting activities to take place.

Minister Lamola will also donate pair of shoes to 60 learners from Hornlee and Thembelitsha Primary Schools and Concordia High School to ensure that they attend school in a dignified manner. Parolees are also maintaining a vegetable garden at Concordia High School which benefits local school feeding scheme projects as part of poverty alleviation programme.

Minister Lamola will hand over the Sport Field as follows:

Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022

Venue: Concordia High School, Knysna, Western Cape

Time: 09h00

Media Confirmations

Sechaba Mphahlele – 083 290 9959

Media Enquiries

Chrispin Phiri – 081 781 2261

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