

590. Hon. W Pretorius (DA) asks the Hon. MEC responsible for SACR: Ms. N Sifuba.

In further follow-up to the Smithfield Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Centre currently under construction in Smithfield, Mohokare Local Municipality (MLM):

1. (a) What is the current status of the construction work at the Smithfield Multi-purpose Indoor Sports Centre, (b) what percentage of the project has been completed to date, and (c) what amount has been paid to the contractor to date?
2. Was a feasibility study conducted prior to the decision to construct this facility in Smithfield? If so, (a) when was it conducted, (b) who conducted it, (c) what were its key findings, and (d) please provide a copy of the study?
3. On what basis and through what process was the decision made to locate and build this facility in Smithfield, and which individuals or entities authorised this decision?
4. What assessment has been undertaken to determine the projected usage and sustainability of the Smithfield Indoor Sports Centre once completed? If none, why not?

RESPONSE 23/08/2025

(a) The contract has been terminated on the basis of slow/none performance by the contractor.

(b) The project terminated at 13.5% progress

(c) At termination, the contractor was already paid R 7 655 860,72 for work done.

2. The department did not see a need to undertake a formal study for the construction of the Smithfield Indoor Sport Centre, as it has already completed a nearly identical project successfully in the past, namely: The new Master Nakedi Multi-Purpose Indoor Sport Centre in Tumahole, Parys of which was completed in October 2016.

Furthermore, the department has successfully completed a number of sport and recreational facilities in the past 20 years ranging from sport centres, local talent development centres, multi-purpose outdoor sport courts, the Free State Sport and Science Institute and multi-purpose indoor sport centres.

While the department understands that a full study is important for high-stakes projects, it's not always necessary when the project is similar to previously completed, with a very straightforward scope of works that is again similar to previous project and that its feasibility is self-evident.

The project variables were known based on the department's prior experience. The process, cost, and timelines were well-understood. Therefore, the identified new location in Smithfield did not necessarily require a feasibility study. Hence saving on time and related costs.

With regard to sub-paragraph/questions - a, b, c and d, please refer to the response above.

3. First and foremost, the primary goal is to ensure that all communities should have access to sports facilities and encourage the formation of amateur leagues and this can be further achieved by building sports facilities. Therefore, the department has been tasked to deliver the sport and recreational facilities in the province inclusive of Xhariep district.

The Free State Department of Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation, seeks to accelerate delivery of sport and recreational facilities in order to meet its objectives. The decision to locate this facility in Smithfield is based on the infrastructure plan of the department and is a collective decision of the Executive Management.

4 A high level consultative engagement was held with the sports council, local federations, local clubs and schools in order determine the community's requirements for a sport facility. This involved understanding the target market, demographics and accessibility to the community at large.

With regard to sustainability, this facility will provide a safer, more inclusive spaces that promote physical activity and well-being for everyone, including those with disabilities, hosting workshops, community gatherings and including a gym facility open to the public and less privileged aspiring athletes.

The above fully aligns with the department's mission that of implementing inclusive programmes that enhance and retain Free State talent and capacity within sport, arts, culture and recreation as well as ensuring developmental pathways towards healthy lifestyles and excellence.