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Grandstanding will not derail Long Kesh/Maze development

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Sinn Féin Lagan Valley MLA Paul Butler has said that individual unionist grandstanding at the Assembly Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee will not derail the Long Kesh/Maze development.

Mr Butler said:

"The simply fact is that the Multi-use Stadium and the Conflict Transformation Zone are two major development initiatives. They are both inter-linked and will deliver enormous economic benefits.

"There has been agreement all along the way in the development of these proposals and we are now at the stage where plans are being unveiled. To date there has been widespread buy-in, including from all of the sporting bodies that would use the Multi-use Stadium. This is not about soccer, and there is no threat of a shrine. This is not about constituency politics or individual prejudice. We want to create jobs and develop the economy.

""No amount of grandstanding from individual unionist MLA's, who are protecting their own self-interests, will derail the Long Kesh/Maze development. Unrealistic notions of a stadium in Belfast are unworkable and it is time that some unionists moved on and worked constructively to deliver this major investment." ENDS

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