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Kennedy - DUP ministers must get their act together on Maze Stadium

E-mail to a friend *June 26th, 2007 Danny Kennedy MLA*



Ulster Unionist Deputy Leader Danny Kennedy has called on the DUP's Executive Ministers to "get their act together" on the national stadium.

Mr Kennedy was speaking after the weekend's public argument between DUP Ministers, with Nigel Dodds contradicting the statements on the Maze location made by Edwin Poots.

Mr Kennedy said: "While most right-thinking people in Northern Ireland will agree with Minister Dodds in opposing a Hunger Strike shrine as an integral part of the Maze National Stadium plans, the confusion amongst DUP Ministers does Northern Ireland no favours.

"On the one hand we have Minister Poots telling us that the Maze location – with its Hunger Strike shrine – is non-negotiable. On the other, his DUP colleague Minister Dodds tells us that it is totally unacceptable. To state the obvious question, which is it? Is the Maze National Stadium and the Hunger Strike shrine non-negotiable, or is it unacceptable?

"When devolution was restored, most people in Northern Ireland had a sense that the Executive was going to have difficulty in achieving a united purpose. It is, however, somewhat surprising that the greatest divisions have appeared amongst the DUP Ministers – failing to agree on what was meant to be a signature project for the Executive, and failing to agree on whether or not a terrorist shrine is acceptable.

"All parties in the Assembly recognise that the issue of locating the National Stadium is a matter of some controversy. But to have Executive Ministers from the same party squabbling in the media over the issue, briefing against each other, and plainly contradicting one another is not the kind of government Northern Ireland deserves".

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