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MCDONNELL: MAZE FAILURE WOULD DEFINE SINN FEIN/ DUP GOVERNMENT FOR EVER

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SDLP Enterprise Spokesperson Dr Alasdair McDonnell MP MLA said the DUP/Sinn Fein-controlled administration is in danger of going down in history as the parties responsible for losing the greatest investment opportunity the north was ever presented with, the Maze project.

Commenting on reports that Culture, Arts and Leisure Minister Gregory Campbell is about to announce the final abandonment of the Maze Stadium, he said:

“If we lose the greatest of projects for the pettiest of reasons no one will forgive them and no one should. The 360 acre Maze site is a major economic opportunity recognised as such by the Strategic Investment Board and the multi-sports stadium is a critical element of it. The Department of Finance is itself in possession of reports indicating that it has the potential to generate thousands of jobs and possibly 10,000.

“Our construction industry is on its knees, our whole economy is in a downturn and layoffs are piling up by the day. This investment and employment decision should not be made by the minister responsible for sport. The First Ministers should have taken this case over long ago and cut through all the nonsense and misinformation being peddled about the Conflict Transformation Centre. They should sort it out. They must sort it out. Back in the heady days of May 2007 they entertained international investors here and made all sorts of extravagant claims about employment generation. The biggest employment opportunity they will see in a political lifetime is staring them in the face. They must not let it slip through their fingers because of a petty DUP/Sinn Fein squabble. Such a failure would define the DUP/Sinn Fein administration for ever.”

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