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BRADLEY: MAZE SHOULD NOT BE POLITICAL FOOTBALL

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SDLP Newry and Armagh MLA Dominic Bradley said it would be a disaster if the proposed Maze stadium project were to fall victim to petty political squabbling.

He said: “We all need to take a cold, hard look at the Maze project, what it offers and what it will cost us all if it is put in danger. First of all, we need to consider up to 10,000 jobs and where else we might get such a large employment project.

“But there is much more involved. The Maze project is in fact a triumph of level-headed cross-community work which brought the three football codes on board for a single stadium. None of the sporting codes is capable of funding a top-class stadium on its own, but working together they can. In fact, what they are doing is co-operating together to realise the peace dividend for everyone. That is what we should all be doing.

“It is very important for our future that the unionist parties should rise above knee-jerk reactions and sit down for a sensible discussion on the proposed conflict transformation centre. So far, we have had a war of soundbites which bear little or no relation to the actual proposal.

“We were promised good government by Sinn Fein and the DUP with decisions being taken in the wider interest of the public and based on a shared future. Now we are seeing the decisions being taken with the clear intention of creating conflict. Rather than seeing the promised battle a day we are seeing the DUP and Sinn Fein bottling out every day, bottling out of the decisions which matter.”

ENDS

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