



ONDUPARAKA FOOTBALL CLUB

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STATEMENT ON RELEASE OF FIXTURES FOR 2022/23 SUPL SEASON

Federation of Uganda Football Associations(FUFA) on **1st September 2022** released the first draft of the 2022/23 season fixtures wherein the home ground of Onduparaka FC was indicated as Bombo Military grounds while our known home ground Ababet Greenlight stadium was listed as the home ground for Arua Hill Football Club.

Background

Onduparaka FC received the ruling of FUFA Competitions Disciplinary Panel on **14th June, 2022** in a case filed by Arua Hill SC wherein it was ruled among others that the club will play five closed stadium home games in a neutral territory outside the West Nile province. Upon receipt of this judgement, the club exercised its right to appeal on **17th June, 2022** which right was granted and the appeal heard on **23rd August, 2022** at FUFA House Mengo. The ruling of the Appeals Committee has until the date of this statement not been received.

As has been the practice, stadiums of all teams intending to participate in the UPL are inspected and the list of approved/unapproved stadiums is publicly published with a notice given to clubs with unapproved stadiums to provide alternative stadiums, which is usually in form of a written agreement. We were rather appalled that this process did not happen and neither did we submit an alternative stadium (pending the decision of the committee). There is also no record of any request/agreement between Onduparaka FC and Arua Hill SC to the effect that the latter acquires the rights to use Ababet Greenlight stadium.

With the above background, the decision to release fixtures dictating grounds of play for the two clubs in a legal contestation can be construed to mean the decision to have Onduparaka FC play five games away is meant to facilitate Arua Hill SC use Greenlight Stadium, which if true is rather unfortunate. Despite the urgency to release fixtures, the Federation had an option to indicate "To be communicated" for teams that have pending obligations pertaining to their fields of play. This decision has caused unrest and distress amongst our fans and stakeholders, hence our decision to release this statement to offer clarity on the current status.

Whereas we urge our fans to remain calm as we pursue matters relating to our participation in the 2022/23 season, we request that the Federation respects the autonomy of Football clubs and presents itself as a fountain of fairness as the rules of the game dictate. We hope and believe that urgent steps will be taken to rectify these flaws to ensure harmony.

Management.