Nhulunbuy football carnival to provide a boost to cyclone hit communities

11 August 2015

The Northern Territory Government will join forces with AFL NT to hold a football carnival in Nhulunbuy next month to support and bring together young people from East Arnhem’s cyclone affected communities.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said strong progress was being made to restore housing and infrastructure in East Arnhem communities after the devastation of Cyclone Lam and Nathan, and the Government wanted to lift community spirits through a positive major event.

“The Northern Territory Government is focused on delivering a rebuilding and community development program that will not only restore community infrastructure, but also leave a strong legacy of employment, training and participation,” he said.

“We are ensuring a feature of the rebuilding effort is partnerships with Yolgnu businesses, with local Yolngu workers making up half the workforce of the major building contractors repairing damaged houses and installing transportable homes.

“The Government is also working closely with community leaders and service providers to identify ways to strengthen communities affected by tropical cyclones Lam and Nathan.

“A regional Australian Rules Football carnival has been identified as a way to help re-engage young adults, restore pride and strength in the East Arnhem communities and show that life is getting back to normal.”

The carnival will be run in partnership with AFL NT who will bring together teams from Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin’ku, Gapuwiyak to take on the Gove Peninsula teams in Nhulunbuy.

The teams will compete in a round robin style competition on 26 and 27 September in Nhulunbuy, while Miwatj Health will also run healthy lifestyle sessions over the weekend.

The carnival has received generous corporate sponsorship from TIO, Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation and Rio Tinto Alcan, as well as in kind support from a range of East Arnhem businesses and organisations.

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