



20 July 2020

## DSACR MOURNS PASSING ON OF SEVERAL ART PRACTITIONERS & SPORT PERSONALITIES

In recent weeks, the creative sector and the sport fraternity in South Africa have lost a number of highly talented artists and sport figures. Indeed we find ourselves in a state of constant somber and despair but like a Phoenix we will collectively rise beyond these trying times. The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation would like to take this opportunity to convey its heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the late actor Duma Mmembe, the, late actor Allen Booï, the late actress Elize Cawood, the late living legend Moonyeen Lee, the late rugby sportscaster Kaunda Ntunja, the late founder of Afrocentric Jazz Band in Bethlehem Mr. Ngadla and the late Free State-born actor from Ladybrand Mzwandile Diba.

“Each of these deaths is a tragic loss to the South African nation. The Department dips its banner in honor of all these martyrs who have kept the pulse of our nation pumping with their talents. May their souls rest in peace,” said Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Mrs. Limakatso Mahasa. The passing on of these legends coincides with the crisis that the entire world is facing in the form of COVID-19 health pandemic.

This pandemic has brought with it ramifications that have seen both the creative sector and the sport fraternity being negatively affected with artists and athletes losing their regular sources of income. To this end, the Department initiated a COVID-19 Relief Fund with a view of assisting qualifying Free State artists and athletes financially and otherwise. The Department has started to make payments to successful applicants and the process is ongoing until all successful applicants are compensated.

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**Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)**

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