



COVID-19 RELIEF FUND FOR ARTISTS AND ATHELETES APPEALS PROCESS OUTCOMES:

The appeals process for the COVID-19 Relief Fund for Artists and Athletes has to come an end. This now brings finality to the long and protracted Relief Fund for Artists and Athletes process that started around March/April 2020 following the Declaration of a State of Disaster by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa.

As communicated before, an Appeals Committee was established by the Department to look into all the appeal cases of individuals and/or entities whose applications for the Relief Fund were declined by the Adjudication Committee. The Appeals Committee was constituted by individuals from diverse backgrounds in the fields of Sport, Arts and Culture. The Committee started its work on the 26th August and completed on 3rd September 2020.

The evaluation process by the Appeals Committee entailed, firstly, reflecting on the motivation of the appellant which had to prove how the Adjudication Committee erred in its decision to decline the application and, secondly, assessing the initial documents that were submitted by the applicant to the Adjudication Committee. Consequently, the Appeals Committee confined itself to the original documentation that was submitted by the applicant/appellant and no new

information/documentation was looked at as a matter of procedure. To wit, the case of each applicant/appellant stood and fell on what has been presented prior.

After the call was made for Artists and Athletes whose applicants were declined to submit appeals, if they so desired, 66 appeals were received by the closing date. The Committee was able to satisfy itself that the Adjudication Committee was correct in its assessment of many applications that were declined. The Committee differed with the Adjudication Committee only in two (2) cases which the Committee recommended for approval on grounds of having met the set criteria. Five (5) appeals were identified as matters of correctness of bank details and these are being verified to ascertain whether payments were indeed effected or not.

Payments to the appellants whose appeals were successful will be effected in a short space of time. The appellants whose appeals were unsuccessful should note that should they not receive any payment from the Department in the next coming two (2) weeks their appeals were unsuccessful.

“I would like to thank all those who made an effort to apply for this Relief Fund and those who submitted appeals once the opportunity was availed. The patience and understanding of the majority of all our local Artists and Athletes has been heartwarming. This is despite the massive administrative, logistical and compliance requirement challenges that the Department had to navigate which led to the process being protracted than anticipated. I want to assure our local Artists and Athletes that we

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are still together on this journey and that as the Department we will continue to work hard to ensure that their development remains high on the agenda”, stated the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation, Mrs Limakatso Mahasa.

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