



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STATEMENT

To: All Media Houses

Attention: News Editors/ Journalists

Date: 12 August 2021

Gauteng province acknowledged as number 1 distributor of relief funds for artists and athletes

Gauteng prides itself in being the home of champions and for successfully working with the creative industries and sports sectors amidst and challenges faced by the sector as a result of the pandemic. Of the nine provinces, Gauteng accounts for 44% of the overall relief funds disbursed to artists and athletes affected by the pandemic nationally. This was unveiled by the Minister of Sport, Arts and Culture Hon. Nathi Mthethwa during his inaugural #ForTheRecord Virtual Media engagement with the media in the past week.

Following a pronouncement that provinces needed to work on mechanisms of reaching out and giving support to artists and athletes who were hardest hit by the lockdown regulations, Gauteng went on an aggressive campaign to ensure that a majority of Gauteng based artists and athletes received the much-needed funds and support. Resulting in the reported 44% coverage nationally for our stakeholders.

Stringent processes in line with government regulations were put in place to select and approve qualifying applications for the 1st and 2nd phase of the Relief Fund. This was to ensure that deserving artists and athletes benefit from the R28million budget set aside to address the plight of the affected stakeholders in the sports and creative industries space.

A total number of 2984 beneficiaries benefitted from the programme with 1098 in the Sport Sector and 1886 in the Arts sector.

“We are very excited with the announcement made by the Minister that of the 6518 relief funds that were disbursed, as Gauteng we were the highest distributor, accounting to 44% of the overall distribution nationally” says MEC Mbali Hlophe.

“We are committed to working closely and giving more support to the creative industries and sports sector which is one of the biggest contributors to the GDP of the province and country” she continues

Ends

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