MEDIA STATEMENT

MICHAEL OWEN PRODUCTIONS WITHDRAWS COURT APPLICATION AGAINST SABC

Johannesburg – Tuesday 28 January 2020 - The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) is pleased to announce that the court application by Michael Owen Productions (MOP) against the SABC has been withdrawn by the applicant. The Notice of Withdrawal was delivered to the SABC's attorneys on the 27th of January 2020.

The matter related to the voting system used by the SABC regarding the Song of the Year competition on the respective radio stations. This matter was scheduled to be heard by the court on the 10th of February 2020.

The SABC has always maintained that the corporation does not have any legal obligations to Michael Owen Productions, contractual or otherwise, and that it will adhere to the court order and await the legal process to unfold in resolving this matter.

The legal and practical effect of the Notice of Withdrawal is that the SABC is no longer restrained and interdicted from announcing the results of any vote or poll relating to the Song of the Year Competition.

It is worth noting that the Michael Owen Productions (MOP) is responsible for ***all*** the legal costs incurred by the SABC in defending the case.

As the voting results for Ukhozi FM's *Ingoma Ehlukanisa Unyaka* campaign were withheld due to a court order, pending finalisation of the case, the SABC will issue a statement regarding the announcement of the audited results.

The SABC would like to thank the public for their patience during this time, whilst the matter was being resolved.

END

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