



MEDIA STATEMENT

SABC, SAMPRA AND IMPRA REACH CONSENSUS ON PAYMENT OF NEEDLETIME ROYALTIES

Johannesburg, Friday, 08 May 2020 –The South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has today met with the Collecting Societies, South African Music Performance Rights Association (SAMPRA) and Independent Music Performance Rights Association (IMPRA) to resolve the long-standing dispute on the allocation of needletime royalties.

The urgency of the matter was compounded by the challenges faced by artists during the COVID-19 pandemic. The SABC, SAMPRA and IMPRA have reached consensus despite the legal dispute on the allocation of needletime royalties.

The parties have agreed to embark on an arbitration process to resolve the legal dispute on the allocation of needletime royalties. These organisations will jointly develop the terms of reference to ensure a sustainable solution for the payment of needletime royalties.

In order to help bring relief to the beneficiaries of needletime royalties, the SABC has decided to make an advance payment to SAMPRA and IMPRA.

The SABC, SAMPRA, IMPRA, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, will continue to work together for the growth and development of the South African music industry.

END

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