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TO: SASCOC Members

FROM: Office of the Acting Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 16 MAY 2020

SUBJECT: UPDATE: COVID-19 WAR ROOM

Dear SASCOC Members,

On behalf of the COVID-19 War Room Team, we would like to thank all those members who completed the survey. The results of the survey have been extremely valuable in demonstrating the state of affairs in the sector during these difficult times and will greatly contribute in developing strategies on how to approach key stakeholders with proposals to assist the sport movement.

As a first step to engage government, the Team had a meeting with the Director General and his management from the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture on Friday, 15 May 2020 to: -

- Present SASCOC COVID-19 WAR ROOM terms of reference, its operational methodology and the work undertaken thus far;
- To provide an outcome of the survey undertaken and current state of affairs within the movement;
- To present the areas of key focus for assistance from the Department and Government at large;
- To agree the way forward in addressing the challenges and needs of the SASCOC membership.

A Key emphasis of the meeting was to request the department to indicate how they will intervene and assist the sports movement to be kept afloat during the lock down as the relief funds provided by government only focused on athletes and officials but not the day to day operations of the National Federations.

The Team proposed the following Relief Funding Streams to the meeting:

1. DSAC Annual Grants for the 2020 Financial Year

Grant allocations for the 2020/21 Financial Year be of a National Federation relief status. These funds should be allocated with a deviation to the current Financial Policy of the Department considering the current gazetted National

BOARD MEMBERS

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Disaster. The National Federation relief should be allocated fully for National Federation operational requirements and be largely unencumbered. Priority should be given to those National Federations who can demonstrate the need to meet operational costs that focuses on job retention in the sector.

2. **DSAC Budget 2020**

A Departmental revised budget could further release funding for National Federation relief by reallocating those amounts initially budgeted for and not limited to the following events/projects:

- School Sport Championships - Winter Games
- Mandela Day
- Indigenous Games
- SA Sports Awards

Those funds from these already budgeted events are ring-fenced into Covid Relief Funding for the Sports Sector.

3. **National Lotteries Commission Covid-19 Relief**

Lobby the NLC to revise the current criteria set. The criteria needs to be in the spirit of relief funding and not be related to previous recipient compliance issues. The country is in a state of National Disaster and the key output should be to keep the Sport Sector afloat with a reasonable and seamless application process.

In response to the issues raised, the Department highlighted the following:

- The Relief Fund was a noble gesture;
- There is no new money from Treasury but the Relief Fund had been funded from within the current budget of the Department;
- Suggested that a question should have been asked in the survey as to what the athletes and officials thought of the support in relation to the Relief Fund;
- There is consideration of a 2nd phase of funding relief, and the Department will need to be guided as to how and who to prioritise;
- The Department will study the proposals made and look at all possible interventions and come up with proposed solutions in this regard;
- The urgency for further funding that is needed in order for the National Federation to survive is noted;
- Director General Mkhize confirmed that no National Federation should have to close their doors.

The meeting also discussed Return to Play and the Team was informed that work is being undertaken by government around this and further consultation is required. Various criteria had to be used, and hopefully the NCCC will be convinced accordingly. Adherence to the health protocols will need to be strictly observed and implemented.

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There is a need to consolidate research done by all the National Federations and provide feedback to Department. It is necessary to classify and categorise the sport sector into contact / non-contact / motorised / non-motorised etc., and find commonalities so that these can be consolidated into a summarised submission to NATJOINTS. The Team will work with the Department in developing this submission.

The Department raised concerns that National Federations are continually requesting for meetings with the Minister and it is not possible for the Minister to meet each National Federation. SASCOC was asked to assist and coordinate these requests for meetings with the Minister through the WAR ROOM

The action steps and way forward agreed are: -

- As per the request from the Department, members are urged to refrain from directly asking for meetings with the Honourable Minister but rather engage through the WAR ROOM Team for guidance and coordination of these requests;
- The membership is kindly requested to send any of their concerns or challenges regarding COVID-19 to the SASCOC office addressed to the Chief Operating Officer, Ms Patience Shikwambana;
- The National Federations to urgently send their proposal regarding Return to Play so that these are consolidated by the Team for submission to the Department for onward submission to the NATJOINTS.

Your cooperation with regards to that which is set out herein will be much appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravi Govender'.

Ravi Govender
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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