

FRIDAY, 15 MAY 2020

MEDIA RELEASE: President has 72 hours to act re: financial support to civil society

President Ramaphosa has been tasked with responding within 72 hours to actions tabled by Civil Society at the 15 May NEDLAC meeting with social partners.

The action items are:

- Government to fast track financial support for civil society organisations including formations such as the Community Constituency Covid-19 Front and others
- The Solidarity Fund to provide financial support for civil society organisations including faith-based organisations who have expressed a dire need
- The Department of Social Development has been requested to speed up with its commitments to provide financial support to civil society. By doing this, the Department can be supported by active civil society organisations in communities to meet their commitments as per the disaster management plans.

The President immediately expressed at the lack of engagement between civil society and the Department of Social Development and the Solidarity Fund. He further mentioned that the following Departments and entities should be providing support to civil society, namely, National Development Agency, Department of Health, Solidarity Fund and the Department of Social Development.

Civil society is encouraged by the Minister's presence at this particular meeting and note the Minister's willingness to meet. The Director General of Social Development has committed to a meeting within a week after the NEDLAC engagement.

"As we prepare for level 3 at the end of May, we must be ready as community based organisations to provide the necessary engagement to ensure compliance and the achievement of sustained long term behavioural change. Time for talking is now over, civil society requires and funds to expand the work we are already doing in communities to mitigate the effects of this pandemic on the most vulnerable", said Steve Letsike, Co-Chairperson of the Community Constituency Covid-19 Front

Ends...

About the Community Constituency Covid-19 Front

The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front was established as a formal advisory body to facilitate the participation of civil society sectors and networks, including those represented in the national response and implementations of Community-Based Measures in response to the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19). The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front promotes an inclusive, competent and responsive civil society that effectively serves the needs of communities by linking and diversifying civil society actors, expanding the sector's response and ensuring better coordination, thus improving operations, and enhancing connections between civil society organisations with government, business labour, their stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The Covid-19 Front aims to provide a hub of information and contacts for distribution and engagement through our members across the country.

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