

4 July 2024

Dear Honourable Minister McKenzie,

On behalf of the Theatre and Dance Alliance and the STAND Foundation, we welcome you as the new Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture. Your appointment comes at a critical time for South Africa's arts sector, which has faced numerous challenges, including the recent COVID-19 pandemic.

The cultural and creative industries are vital to our nation, reflecting our heritage and fostering social cohesion. However, confidence in the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC) has eroded due to neglect and mismanagement, leaving many artists struggling.

We hope your appointment signifies a turning point. It's crucial that your leadership addresses systemic issues within the DSAC and restores faith among artists and cultural workers. We urge you to publicly affirm your commitment to the arts alongside sports, recognizing their role in our cultural identity and societal well-being.

Based on suggestions from respected voices in our community, we recommend the following actions:

1. Dislodge CCIFSA from the DSAC
2. Halt the amalgamation of the National Arts Council and National Film & Video Foundation
3. Stop the creation of a mega-council for performing arts institutions
4. Review performance management contracts
5. Resolve pending legal cases
6. Address theatre & dance policy proposals
7. Review DSAC's management of the Venice Biennale
8. Review cultural bilateral MOUs
9. Promote reading and reduce book taxes
10. Prevent DSAC officials from acting as event producers
11. Appoint a Council for the Cultural & Creative Economy
12. Address the Copyright Amendment Bill
13. Consider the STAND TOGETHER Resolutions of 2021
14. Ensure accountability through the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Arts & Culture
15. Reinvigorate arts in schools and communities

We urge collaboration with other ministries, including Trade, Industry and Competition, Employment and Labour, and Basic Education, to bring systemic change and regulation to protect the creatives in the sector.

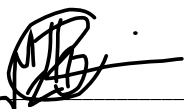
We request your engagement with grassroots organizations like TADA, STAND Foundation, ASSITEJ South Africa, PMA, and SAGA. These organizations address allegations of disorganization within our sector and work to formalize and advocate for artists' rights.

Additionally, we recommend consulting respected cultural leaders such as Ismail Mahomed, Warona Seane, Mike Van Graan, Gregory Vuyani Maqoma, Sibongile Mngoma, Lesego van Niekerk, Carlynn De Waal-Smit, and Althea Greenland for their invaluable insights.

Your role as Minister of Arts and Culture is crucial in a nation where the arts have historically confronted injustices and inspired change. By championing the arts, you ensure that creative voices continue to thrive, promoting cultural heritage and fostering unity.

We look forward to a future where the arts are valued and supported, and we stand ready to collaborate with you in this endeavour.

Yours in the arts,



THEATRE AND DANCE ALLIANCE  
Mthokozisi Zulu



STAND FOUNDATION  
Yvette Hardie