

103 Provisus Building

103 Provisus Building 523 Church Street Arcadia

Tel: 012 341 5112 Fax: 012 341 6136 Celi: 071 602 4794

Email: lesleyram@telkomsa.net

Date: 06 September 2012 our ref: Lesley/2012 Your Ref:

THE HOUNOURABLE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT MR MAXWELL SISULU PER EMAIL:

HONOURABLE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE
ARTS & CULTURE
MRS SUNDUZA
PER EMAIL:

DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & CULTURE MR SIBUSISO XABA
PER HAND

**RE: UNPAID LEGAL FEES BY PANSALB** 

## Dear Sir / madam

- 1. The above matter has a reference
- 2. The purpose of our letter is to advice the honourable Chairperson of the Portfolio committee on difficulties we find ourselves and a possible of us closing doors due to such difficulties.
- 3. We have been a legal service provider for the board, (PanSALB) since 2008, duly appointed to represent the board on various litigations brought against it by the former CEO and former Legal advisor.

- 4. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2012, we appeared before the CCMA Pretoria on behalf of the board in a case against both dismissed employees and also before the High Court Pretoria. Legal costs were incurred in the process and as such various invoices were submitted to the Board for payments, needless to say to date no payments has been received despite various request.
- 5. On 19 July 2012, we received a letter from certain Ntumba Auditors, they alleged they are working for the new administrator. In summary they requested we provide them with all the files for proper assessment before any payment can be made. It's worth noting that to date they never came to collect the requested files. (it's worth mentioning that the same exercise was done by Resolve Group in March 2012)
- 6. On 25 July 2012, Ntumba Auditors visited our offices with a copy of a letter from Auditor General, we were expected to assist them with the queries raised regarding legal fees. We have attached a copy of the said discussion marked annexure "A". We never heard from these individuals again. We were informed however from the sources internally that the query from Auditor General was a non-issue and as such it was cleared.
- 7. On 20 August 2012, we received a letter from PanSALB caretaker CEO stating that according to his audit investigation we have overcharged the board and as such our outstanding invoices will not be paid and terminated our service level agreement with the board. Instead he demands that we refund an amount of R1 299 928 to him. I must

mentioned our outstanding invoices due are R1 423 445, 00 (80% of the

amount is Advocate's fees).

8. At this stage the Advocates have blacklisted our company with the bar,

which means we will never be able to instruct an advocate again to appear

on our clients' behalf in the High Court matters.

9. We have a contract with the Ministry of Trade and industry where we had

engaged the services of the same advocates we used in the PanSALB

matters and have hired in job training of 12 newly graduate in the project,

they are holding back our report due to non payments from PanSALB,

which report, should have been submitted to the Department two months

ago. The DTI is currently talking of cancelling our contract with them due

to a breach of contract and as a result we will be black listed with the

Treasury.

10. In conclusion, if we do not receive these payments, we will have no

option but to, retrench the entire in job training graduates, our staff

members and close doors. We therefore request your immediate

intervention hereof.

11. We hope the above is in order.

Lesley Ramulifho

Ramulifho Inc Attorneys