

From: [REDACTED]

Windhoek

To: Ms Sanet Steenkamp
Executive Director
Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture
Private Bag 13186
Windhoek
July 8th, 2024

Subject: Addressing the requirement for a Nascam letter to obtain a work visa for a musical performance

Dear Sanet Steenkamp,

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Namibian musical artist and event organizer deeply invested in the prosperity of our local art, music and events industry. I am writing to bring to your attention a significant issue that is currently hindering the growth and sustainability of our industry – the exorbitant and prohibitive costs associated with obtaining work visas for international artists due to the requirement by Home affairs for a “Nascam letter” to obtain a temporary work visa for a musical performance.

The associated costs have recently escalated to unsustainable levels. There is no written policy by home affairs, however this “letter” is now being requested and without the letter they will not issue the work visa.

The current process that necessitates obtaining a letter from NASCAM incurs an average "licensing fee" between N\$3800 and N\$5000 per musician. Consequently, the total cost in the Visa process to bring in a four-member musical group amounts to approximately N\$30000 not including travel, accommodation, and performance fees.

This financial burden has made it virtually impossible for local organizers and artists to invite international performers independently. The requirement for the NASCAM letter, although not formalized in written policy, is enforced by Home Affairs, exacerbating the financial strain on organizers. As a result, the potential for cultural exchange and the enrichment of our local music scene is severely compromised.

The informal and inconsistent application of NASCAM's involvement, along with their arbitrary fees, further compounds the problem. Additionally, the lack of transparency and oversight in NASCAM's fee collection raises concerns about potential corruption and mismanagement.

I am writing to appeal for your advice in this pressing matter.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]