



vrystaat

KUNSTEFEEES
ARTS FESTIVAL
TSA-BOTJHABA

Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Dear festival patrons and supporters,

As you may be aware the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The virus was first reported in Wuhan, Hubei, China, on 17 November 2019 and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak a pandemic. As of March 18, 2020, over 202,000 cases have been confirmed in more than 160 countries and territories (including South Africa), with major outbreaks in mainland China, Italy, South Korea, and Iran. Close to 8,000 people have died from the disease. More than 82,000 have recovered.

The WHO urges all countries to take a comprehensive approach tailored to their circumstances – with containment as the central pillar.

The University of the Free State, our key partner and host of the festival, has had to develop its own protocols around COVID-19, and some of these protocols include placing a moratorium on international visitors and in general limiting visitors to the campuses as much as possible until 30 June 2020.

The South African Government has also prohibited all gatherings of more than a 100 people, with President Cyril Ramaphosa bringing in strict rules to help curtail the virus.

We will thus not be able to hold Vrystaat Classical Sounds in May or the Vrystaat Arts Festival in June/July this year.

The festival is lucky in that we have time to adjust to the changing situation and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic facing us over the next few months. The Board aims to shift the festivals to later dates in 2020. Due to the current national restrictions and potential availability of the University campus facilities, specific dates will still be confirmed.

We understand that for some this will come as a shock, but we are very aware of our responsibility to our communities and to assist in the curtailment of this pandemic.

We will deliver an equally brilliant festival in the new time-slot - and hope you will join us for a week of celebrations and festivities at the next festival.

Regards

De Villiers Brink
Chair Vrystaat Kunstefees/Arts Festival/Tsa-Botjhaba

Khoekhoegowab: Vrystaati di DI//khasib !Gá!gáisens ge #an!gás tsí !góasiba Khoe-San Khoena ra má. Nê khoen ge //in aboxan !na /gaisa #goms tsí !hú//arede! kho/gara há,náu khoen !húb din /khas khami

Afrikaans: Die Vrystaat Kunstefees erken en respekteer die Khoe-San van die Vrystaat en die diep geestelike verhoudings wat hulle met hul voorouers, hierdie land en sy mense het.

English: The Vrystaat Arts Festival acknowledges and respects the Khoe-San of the Free State and the deep spiritual attachment to their ancestors and relationships they have to this country and its people.

Sesotho: Mokete wa tsa Bonono Freistata o ananela le ho hlompha morabe wa Khoe-San wa Freistata, le kamano e tebileng ya semoya eo ba nang le yona le badimo ba bona hammoho le dikamano tseo ba nang le tsona le naha ena le baahi ba yona.

PO BOX 267 , BLOEMFONTEIN, 9300, NELSON MANDELA DRIVE 79, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301
TEL: +27 (0)51 404 7907, FAX: +27 (0)86 249 0017, info@vrystaatkunstefees.co.za, www.vrystaatkunstefees.co.za

REGISTERED AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANISATION REG. NO. 054-793-NPO