

# RELIEF FUND FOR FREELANCE TOURIST GUIDES



On 30 May 2020, the Minister of Tourism announced that there will be a special fund made available for freelance guides. An amount of R30million has been set aside to provide financial relief to all registered freelance guides who essentially operate independently, without formal businesses in place.

The COVID-19 pandemic that the world is currently faced with continues to have devastating effects on the tourism industry with tourist guiding sector being a major causality of this sudden and sharp downturn. Therefore, due to the urgent relief that is required by this sector, the Department has decided to proceed with a “no application process”. This effectively means that the source of information will come from the provincial databases that are maintained by the various Provincial Registrars of Tourist Guides which contains the details of all the registered tourist guides across all nine (9) provinces. The Department will request assistance from other departments and entities such as Department of Home Affairs (DHA), the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and the likes, to conduct verifications and validate information, where necessary.

The verifications will give the Department a good indication as to how many guides are already registered with UIF, have registered businesses in place, are tax compliant and those who may have already benefitted from other relief measures provided by government. Once this exercise is completed, the department will proceed with cardless payments to all freelance guides that meet the compliance checks and verification processes in order to expedite payments to freelance guides. Over the next two (2) weeks, Provincial Registrars will be ensuring that all the relevant information on their respective databases are correct, particularly the contact details of all their guides. The Department aims to commence with payments to freelance guides by end June 2020.

**The Department will publish updates on a weekly basis on the departmental social media platforms so that the guiding sector is kept informed of new developments in this regard.**

**For any queries related to this fund, please email [TouristGuideEnquiries@tourism.gov.za](mailto:TouristGuideEnquiries@tourism.gov.za).**



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