

**01 November 2023**

**Media Statement: For immediate release**

**PUBLIC PROTECTOR RULES IN FAVOUR OF THE NAC:  
GOLDEN HANDSHAKE ALLEGATION**

The National Arts Council (NAC) is pleased to announce that the Public Protector has ruled in the NAC's favour and declared that the allegation filed with the Public Protector's office that the NAC improperly granted the golden handshake to Ms Rosemary Mangope, **is not substantiated**.

In her ruling issued yesterday (31<sup>st</sup> October 2023) , The Public Protector stated that evidence before the Public Protector indicates that the payment made to Ms Mangope was in terms of a settlement agreement entered into between the Parties **based on rational, professional and ethical standard of accountability** imposed by section 195(1)(f) of the Constitution. Furthermore, the evidence indicates that the settlement agreement was also in line with section 51(b) of the PFMA aimed at **avoiding a potential irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure**. The matter is consequently regarded as finalised and the Public Protector has proceeded to close the file.

The NAC is pleased with this ruling and wishes to reassure the public that it remains committed to promoting transparency, accountability and good governance within the organisation .

End.

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