



FirstRand

MEDIA RELEASE:

FirstRand heeds call to support the media through a contribution of R500 000 to SANEF Media Relief Fund

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johannesburg, Thursday, 9 July 2020 – In response to the current challenges facing the South African media industry, FirstRand is contributing half a million rand to assist journalists financially impacted by COVID-19, through the South African National Editors' Forum (SANEF) Media Relief Fund.

This forms part of the group's wide-ranging COVID-19 relief measures and the R500 000 is made up of contributions from FirstRand and its operating businesses: FNB, RMB, WesBank and Ashburton Investments.

The group believes that the media has played a vital role in ensuring that the nation is kept up to date on key developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, through credible journalism and platforms. It has ensured that South African citizens have been reliably informed on the necessary measures to keep themselves and their loved ones safe.

South Africa is fortunate to have a journalistic community with a long track record of holding all stakeholders of society to account. This is not a privilege that every nation enjoys, and it needs to be protected in these challenging times.

Mahlatse Mahlase, SANEF chairperson, says:

"We are truly grateful to FirstRand for contributing to the fund and recognising the important role journalism plays in strengthening our democracy. The job losses in the industry are unprecedented and we are losing journalists at a time we need them the most. South Africans have turned to trusted news sources in the face of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic. The contribution will go a long way in cushioning the blow."

ENDS