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Covid-19 Regulatory Update
15 April 2020

Covid-19 related guidelines and regulations: <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>.
Covid-19 Directives and notices relating to legal practitioners:
<http://www.derebus.org.za/directives-covid-19/> / <https://lpc.org.za/>

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Please note that we also produce Alerts in the following fields (contact us for an evaluation copy and subscription rates):

[Attorney Alert \(General\) \(weekly\)](#)
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[Health Law \(monthly\)](#)
[Insurance Law \(monthly\)](#)
[Practice Management \(bi-monthly\)](#)

AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Western Cape Agriculture. MEC Ivan Meyer hands over cloth masks and visits Distell during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 14 April 2020.

“Today, I visited the De Fynne Nursery in Paarl where I handed over the first of 100 000 cloth masks to be distributed to agri workers across the Western Cape. I also visited the Distell Monis Production Plant, a section of which has been repurposed to produce alcohol-based sanitiser in response to the Covid-19 virus. During the handover of masks, I emphasized the correct use and care of a mask in ensuring that we stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. I stressed that wearing a mask was a further precautionary measure to observe. I highlighted in particular how to put on the mask, and the correct procedures to adopt while wearing and taking off the mask. Distell’s decision to commit 100 000 litres of alcohol, to be used to produce sanitisers as well as a variety of other hygienic and sanitising products, should be lauded.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-ivan-meyer-hands-over-cloth-masks-and-visits-distell-during-covid-19-coronavirus>

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CONFIRMED CASES

Media Releases

Department of Correctional Services. Correctional Services activates containment and treatment as Coronavirus COVID-19 cases increase. 14 April 2020.

“The number of inmates testing positive for COVID-19 at East London Correctional facility has increased by 49 cases. Overall figures will therefore reflect, 53 inmates and 25 officials (inclusive of St Albans and Head Office), thus placing DCS to a combined total of 78 cases. As the number of infected people increases in correctional services, the containment and treatment pillar of the Disaster Management Response Strategy of the department has been activated. This is looking at the rapid identification of laboratory-confirmed cases, the isolation of those who test positive and management of the pandemic within our centres. Health care teams are on site, armed with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), which includes goggles, gloves, masks and gowns, rendering care services to distress cases and monitoring those likely to develop acute respiratory challenges.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/correctional-services-activates-containment-and-treatment-coronavirus-covid-19-cases>

Department of Health. Minister Zweli Mkhize confirms total of 2 415 cases of Coronavirus COVID-19. 14 April 2020.

“As at today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa is 2 415. The total number of tests conducted to date is 87 022. The provincial breakdown is as follows: Gauteng: 909; Western Cape: 643; KwaZulu-Natal: 489; Eastern Cape: 174; Free State: 98; Limpopo: 24; Mpumalanga: 22; North West: 22; Northern Cape: 16; Unallocated: 18.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-confirms-total-2-415-cases-coronavirus-covid-19-14-apr-2020-0000>

Western Cape Office of the Premier. Premier Alan Winde on COVID-19 Coronavirus cases in Western Cape. 14 April 2020.

“As of 00h01 on 14 April, the Western Cape has recorded 657 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection... A total of 184 recoveries have been recorded (in line with NICD guidelines on recoveries) in the province. A note on today’s statistics: A case allocated to Bitou yesterday has been re-assigned to Witzenberg after address details were updated. We apologise for the inconvenience. The laboratories sometimes use patient addresses already on file at the time of testing, which are then corrected during the follow-up and contact tracing processes.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/premier-alan-winde-covid-19-coronavirus-cases-western-cape-14-apr-2020-0000>

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CORPORATE LAW

Media Release

Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs. MEC Makalo Mohale visits small businesses during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 14 April 2020.

“Immediately after the announcement made on 15th March 2020 by President Cyril Ramaphosa on measures to be implemented to contain the spread of Covid-19, Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Economic Affairs (DESTEA) also took measures to contain the spread of Covid-19, specifically on travel restrictions on foreigners from countries that might have a significant impact on the planned activities for the 2020/21 game season. The lock down has had a devastating impact on businesses across the country. In the Free State, the clothing and textile sector provides employment to a significant number of people in Botshabelo and QwaQwa and it has been hard hit; there are signs that some of these factories may find it difficult to re-start their operations post the lock down period.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-makalo-mohale-visits-small-businesses-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-14-apr-2020>

CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE*Media Statement***SA Government News Agency. Criminal justice system is not on leave.**

2020 Apr 13 SA News

“Gender-based violence and the vandalism of infrastructure during the COVID-19 lockdown will not be tolerated, President Cyril Ramaphosa has warned. To this end, in his weekly newsletter message, the President urged communities to play their part in reporting such misdemeanours. The strong message comes in the wake of reports of schools being burgled, trashed burnt, critical Eskom cables stolen while women and children were being murdered during the outbreak. “When the lockdown is lifted and learning resumes, thousands of our children will have no school to return to, depriving them of the right to education.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/criminal-justice-system-not-leave>

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS*Government Gazette***Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002**

Regulations issued by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27(2) regarding the steps necessary to prevent an escalation of the disaster or to alleviate, contain and minimise the effects of the disaster published in [GN318 in GG 43107 of 18 March 2020](#). Afrikaans text of amendments (English version was published in [RGN398 in GG 43148 of 25 March 2020](#)).

RGN483 GG 43228 p3 14Apr2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43228_14-04_Cogta.pdf

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EDUCATION*Media Statement***SA Government News Agency. DBE sets the record straight on Lockdown Digital Classroom.**

2020 Apr 14 SA News

“The Lockdown Digital Classroom is a free and voluntary virtual classroom that encourages pupils to continue learning during the lockdown, the Basic Education Department clarified on Tuesday. The initiative, which is the brainchild of Africa Teen Geeks - an organization that does work in the basic education sector, received criticism on social media with users expressing concern over the use of celebrities as opposed to qualified teachers. “The initiative was created by a Non-Profit-Organization called Africa Teen Geeks (ATG) who approached the department with an idea for an intervention to support learners during the lockdown resulting from COVID-19,” said the department.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/dbe-sets-record-straight-lockdown-digital-classroom>

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ENVIRONMENTAL LAW*Media Release***Department of Social Development. Social Development Acting Director-General clarifies partnership with Church of Scientology over fumigation. 14 April 2020.**

“The Acting Director-General of the Department of Social Development, Mr Mzolisi Toni, has noted with concern the circulation of a letter on social media platforms which authorises Scientology Volunteer Ministries, an NPO, to render sanitising services to DSD National and DSD Provincial Facilities during the COVID-19 lockdown. The letter, dated 02 April 2020, which is on the Department of Social Development’s official letterhead under the signature of the Acting Director-General is legitimate. The Acting Director-General, however, wishes to put it on record that the only agreement that existed between the Department of Social Development and Scientology Volunteer Ministries was a once-off agreement that involved the fumigation of its premises and facilities.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/social-development-acting-director-general-clarifies-partnership-church-scientology-over>

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FINANCIAL LAW

*Media Releases***National Treasury. Minister Tito Mboweni: Media briefing on economy and Coronavirus COVID-19. 14 April 2020.**

“The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest challenges that has ever faced our nation. It is three simultaneous shocks. It is a health shock, which will stretch the resources of our health care system to its limit. It is a global economic shock, which will substantially reduce global growth and consequently external demand, and it is a domestic economic shock, because our domestic policies will reduce economic activity, both from a demand side and a supply side.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-tito-mboweni-media-briefing-economy-and-coronavirus-covid-19-14-apr-2020-0000>

South African Reserve Bank. Governor Lesetja Kganyago on Monetary Policy Committee meeting. 14 April 2020.

“Since the March meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the Covid-19 pandemic has spread globally and its impact is being felt through all economies. Current estimates from the IMF show global growth contracting this year by about 2.9%. Economic contractions are expected to be deepest in the second quarter of 2020, with some recovery expected in the third quarter of the year. The strength of the recovery into the fourth quarter and 2021 will depend on how quickly countries are able to open up for economic activity safely, requiring sustainable social distancing rules, safety processes put in place by businesses and public institutions, and capacity of hospitals to accommodate those in need. Current indications from the World Health Organisation are that the pandemic is unlikely to end quickly, with shorter, less virulent waves hitting over time.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/governor-lesetja-kganyago-monetary-policy-committee-meeting-14-apr-2020-0000>

*Media Statement***SA Government News Agency. Government mulls COVID-19 funding models.**

2020 Apr 14 SA News

“Government, through National Treasury, is exploring all funding avenues to finance all COVID-19 related programmes and measures aimed at addressing the pandemic. “The funding avenues will not be limited locally but will include exploring all global partners and international finance institutions,” Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni said. Addressing a media briefing on Tuesday, the Minister said government will revise the fiscal framework to take into account the effect of COVID-19 on the fiscus. He said there are a number of elements to the fiscal response, including putting forward clear estimates of the additional health care costs that will be needed. Government will reprioritise [sic] unnecessary expenditure towards these health care costs.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-mulls-covid-19-funding-models>

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HOME AFFAIRS

*Media Release***Department of Home Affairs. Home Affairs on immigration matters during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 14 April 2020.**

“The Department of Home Affairs wishes to outline temporary measures which are in place to address immigration matters during the lockdown period. The temporary measures were introduced after President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster on 15 March 2020 and, subsequently, a national lockdown from 27 March, extended until end of April 2020, to contain the spread of COVID-19. Visa concessions listed below apply to those with visas which expired from 15 February 2020, unless a person has proof that he/she had already submitted an application for a visa extension prior to 15 February 2020 and the outcome is pending.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/home-affairs-immigration-matters-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-14-apr-2020-0000>

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LAND AND PROPERTY

*Media Release***Department of Water and Sanitation. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on evictions and water cuts during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 13 April 2020.**

“Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu held a third meeting with civil society organisations to discuss interventions in densely populated informal settlements, as part of efforts to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. During the meeting, the recent evictions in Makhaza Informal Settlements in the Western Cape were discussed. Minister Sisulu has once again emphasized that everyone should adhere to the directive by government that all evictions be suspended during the lockdown period in which the nation is engaged in fighting the

spread of COVID-19. Minister Sisulu also called for the Municipalities to suspend cutting water supply for the duration of the lockdown as government has called on citizens to practice hygiene by washing their hands several times a day to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-sisulu-calls-municipalities-suspend-cutting-water-residents-repeats-call>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. Article on mass removal of people in informal settlements misleading.

2020 Apr 13 SA News

“Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has disputed a Sunday newspaper report which claims she ordered the mass removal of people from informal settlements as a measure to tackle the spread of COVID-19. The Minister said she has neither done so nor given such an indication. She is considering her options regarding the article published by Sunday Times newspaper. “I have been very clear and consistent. I’m working with NGOs that are close to the informal settlements to guide government on what needs to be done about the vulnerability of people in extremely densely populated informal settlements,” Sisulu said.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/article-mass-removal-people-informal-settlements-misleading>

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LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. WHO urges caution in easing COVID-19 restrictions.

2020 Apr 14 SA News

“With the declaration that the novel Coronavirus is 10 times deadlier than the 2009 swine flu, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has called on countries to slowly lift control measures. “We know that COVID-19 spreads fast, and we know that it is deadly – 10 times deadlier than the 2009 flu pandemic,” said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The WHO DG made the declaration on Monday during a virtual briefing. With some countries and communities under several weeks of social and economic restrictions in a bid to curb the spread of COVID-19, Ghebreyesus urged countries to be measured when phasing out restrictions.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/who-urges-caution-easing-covid-19-restrictions>

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MEDICAL LAW

Media Releases

North West Health. MEC Madoda Sambatha requests Geelhood Park and Tlhabane communities to come for COVID-19 Coronavirus testing and screening. 13 April 2020.

“North West Health MEC, Madoda Sambatha urges people of Geelhood Park and Tlhabane in Rustenburg to come out in their numbers to be screened and tested for Covid-19. Rustenburg has nine of the 19 confirmed Coronavirus cases in the North West province. The majority of the confirmed cases are in the mentioned settlements. A total of 153 Covid-19 tests have been conducted, 85 came back negative and results for 39 tests are still pending. Three people who had contracted Covid-19 have recovered in Rustenburg alone.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/people-tlhabane-and-geelhood-park-urged-come-out-screening-and-testing-covid-19-13-apr-2020>

Western Cape Office of the Premier. Premier Alan Winde on COVID-19 Coronavirus community screening. 13 April 2020.

“As of 00h01 on 13 April, the Western Cape has recorded 628 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection... A note on today’s data: Due to updates in address data, two cases which appeared in yesterday’s update for Mossel Bay have been re-allocated to the metro region. Mossel Bay therefore currently stands at 17 cases. There are currently 29 Covid-19 positive people being treated in hospitals in the province, with 15 of these in intensive care. Community screening and testing will resume in areas across the province tomorrow. We encourage those in communities where testing is occurring to make use of the opportunity. Screening and testing help us to identify pockets of infection, and allow our contact tracing teams to get to work quickly and work to stop the spread.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/update-premier-alan-winde-coronavirus-community-screening-resume-tomorrow-13-apr-2020-0000>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. SA receives medical supplies from China.

2020 Apr 14 SA News

“South Africa has received medical supplies from China to help combat the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. At 7pm on Monday, 13 April, a Boeing 777 aircraft, which flew more than 24 hours from Guangzhou, China, arrived at OR Tambo International Airport with a consignment of medical supplies and equipment donated by China. The cargo is currently going through accelerated clearance, with the assistance of the South African Revenue Service. Items

donated include 11 000 N95 masks, 50 000 surgical masks, 3 000 sets of protective suits, 500 portable infrared thermometers, 3 000 goggles, 11 000 pairs of surgical gloves and 11 000 pairs of medical shoe covers.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-receives-medical-supplies-china>

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Release

Western Cape Community Safety. MEC Albert Fritz condemns looting of several food stores during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 14 April 2020.

“The Minister of Community Safety, Albert Fritz, condemns the looting of several food stores today. Incidents were reported in Mannenberg, Sherwood Park, Nyanga Junction and Gatesville. Minister Fritz said, “At present, we find ourselves facing a humanitarian crisis because of the lockdown and the economic challenges that follow are only going to exacerbate these challenges further. It is a struggle for many to put food on the table. This is a very big concern for us and our government has taken a number of steps to assist as much as we can. However, I must be clear, looting will not be tolerated. We urge all our residents to abide by the law at all times.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-albert-fritz-condemns-looting-several-food-stores-during-coronavirus-covid-19-lockdown>

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WATER & SANITATION

Media Releases

Department of Water and Sanitation. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on evictions and water cuts during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 13 April 2020.

“Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Lindiwe Sisulu held a third meeting with civil society organisations to discuss interventions in densely populated informal settlements, as part of efforts to mitigate against the spread of COVID-19. During the meeting, the recent evictions in Makhaza Informal Settlements in the Western Cape were discussed. Minister Sisulu has once again emphasized that everyone should adhere to the directive by government that all evictions be suspended during the lockdown period in which the nation is engaged in fighting the spread of COVID-19. Minister Sisulu also called for the Municipalities to suspend cutting water supply for the duration of the lockdown as government has called on citizens to practice hygiene by washing their hands several times a day to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-sisulu-calls-municipalities-suspend-cutting-water-residents-repeats-call>

Department of Water and Sanitation. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on water supply during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 14 April 2020.

“It has come to the attention of the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Lindiwe Sisulu that the current initiative to curb the spread of COVID-19 through supplying water to water distressed communities across South Africa, is being obstructed in certain parts of the country. The Ministry has received information that there are people who benefitted from water tankering that are now interfering with the government’s programme to roll out water tanks in affected villages. The Minister has been informed that some business people are sabotaging the delivery of water at the expense of ordinary people who are in desperate need of water.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-water-supply-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-14-apr-2020-0000>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. Over 8500 N Cape households access water.

2020 Apr 13 SA News

“More than 39 105 residents of the Northern Cape have been provided with access to water since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, says the Department of Water and Sanitation. The department said that 161 water tanks have been installed province wide, servicing 8 690 households. Northern Cape Provincial Head of the Department Kobus Streuders has, however, expressed concerns regarding the slow delivery and installation of water tanks. Out of 791 water tanks allocated, only 421 have been delivered so far, with 144 installed and servicing residents. Out of 81 water trucks allocated, only 58 have been delivered.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-8500-n-cape-households-access-water>

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