

# COVID-19 coronavirus



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**Covid-19 Regulatory Update**

**21 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/>

## CONTENTS

AGRICULTURE .....	2
CONFIRMED CASES .....	2
CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE.....	2
EMPLOYMENT LAW .....	3
FINANCIAL LAW .....	3
LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS .....	3
PUBLIC SERVICES .....	4
SAFETY AND SECURITY .....	4
STATISTICS .....	5
TRADE AND INDUSTRY .....	5
WATER & SANITATION .....	5

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Practice Management (bi-monthly)

## AGRICULTURE

### Media Release

#### Minister Ivan Meyer. Western Cape Agriculture allocates R10 million towards Tissue Culture Facility. 20 April 2020.

“The United Nations celebrates World Creativity and Innovation Day on 21 April 2020. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture has allocated a once-off contribution of R10 million towards the infrastructure and key equipment required for a quarantine accredited Tissue Culture Facility (TFC) which will improve the competitiveness of the Deciduous Fruit sector and its ability to penetrate global markets. The TFC will create the opportunity to multiply and provide quarantine compliant plant material to local industry and for neighbouring states which will also create a gateway to Southern African Development Communities (SADC). This will further enhance the Western Cape’s standing as a key player in internationally accredited plant material trade and development.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-agriculture-allocates-r10-million-towards-tissue-culture-facility-20-apr-2020>

[Back to Contents](#)

## CONFIRMED CASES

### Media Statement

#### SA Government News Agency. COVID-19 cases rise to 3 300, four new deaths.

2020 Apr 20 SA News

“South Africa on Monday confirmed four new COVID-19 deaths, leading to a total of 58 people who have succumbed to the virus to date. According to a statement released by the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, the country now has 3 300 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 121 510 tests having been conducted in both public and private sectors as of Monday evening. The country has recorded 1 055 COVID-19 recoveries. Gauteng is still leading with 1 170 people testing positive for the virus, followed by the Western Cape at 940 cases. KwaZulu-Natal has 639 cases of COVID-19, followed by the Eastern Cape with 310, Free State 105, Limpopo 27, North West 25, Mpumalanga 23 and the Northern Cape 18. There are 43 unallocated cases.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/covid-19-cases-rise-3-300-four-new-deaths>

[Back to Contents](#)

## CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

### Media Release

#### South African Police Service. SAPS arrest suspects for diesel theft at Verkykerskop. 20 April 2020.

“Three suspects aged between 37 and 39 have been arrested for alleged theft of diesel and tampering or destroy of essential infrastructure. On Friday an employee of Transnet was sent to Verkykerskop to investigate the possible tampering of a valve. On his arrival he established that the block cover was damaged and there was plenty of diesel spillage at the scene. He noticed that there were tyre tracks at the gate and immediately went to the local Verkykerskop SAPS to open a case. Later in the day the SAPS stopped a truck which was being escorted by a bakkie. Whilst questioning the occupants of the truck, the driver of the bakkie approached the SAPS members and attempted to bribe them and they were arrested and detained on the spot.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/saps-arrest-suspects-diesel-theft-verkykerskop-20-apr-2020-0000>

### Media Statement

#### SA Government News Agency. President Ramaphosa bemoans alleged food parcel theft.

2020 Apr 20 SA News

“President Cyril Ramaphosa on Monday expressed concern at the alleged theft of food parcels meant to assist distressed families and individuals during the COVID-19 nationwide lockdown. “A number of provinces have received reports that callous individuals, some of them allegedly government officials, are hoarding or selling food parcels earmarked for the needy and destitute, or diverting them to their friends and families,” said the President in his weekly newsletter. In the letter, the President vowed to deal with individuals harshly, should the allegations prove to be true.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/president-ramaphosa-bemoans-alleged-food-parcel-theft>

[Back to Contents](#)

## EMPLOYMENT LAW

## Media Releases

**Department of Employment and Labour. Employment and Labour pays out Coronavirus Covid-19 benefits to workers. 20 April 2020.**

"The Minister of Employment and Labour Thulas Nxesi has called on employers who are registered with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) to apply for the Covid-19 benefits through the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme on behalf of their employees. As part of its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department has issued a directive for relief to be provided to contributors who have lost income or required to take annual leave as a result of the Coronavirus breakout. To date, the UIF has received just over 55 268 applications from employers representing about 1 601 767 employees. In total, the UIF has over 1 800 000 employers registered on its database representing more than 8-million workers."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-pays-out-coronavirus-covid-19-benefits-workers-20-apr-2020-0000>

**Department of Employment and Labour. Minister Thulas Nxesi visits UIF labour centre handling Coronavirus COVID-19 claims, 20 Apr. 20 April 2020.**

"The coronavirus pandemic has quickly evolved from a health care crisis to a financial one, closing non-essential businesses, leading to job losses, and sending economies to recession worldwide. Many South Africans are filing for unemployment insurance fund and compensation fund. Due to the influx of calls at UIF Call Centre by laid-off workers and employers in distress, UIF Call Centre was experiencing system failures. Working with Harambee the UIF Call Centre has now been expanded and new recruits have been brought on board to handle as many calls for claims as possible."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thulas-nxesi-visits-uif-labour-centre-handling-coronavirus-covid-19-claims-20-apr>

[Back to Contents](#)

## FINANCIAL LAW

## Media Releases

**National Student Financial Aid Scheme. NSFAS on student allowance during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

"Following the announcement by the President of the countrywide lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) activated a business continuity plan to facilitate uninterrupted funding to students, resolution of student applications queries, processing of appeals and general assistance to institutions with NSFAS administration. Ensuring that students receive their allowances during this time of general hardship and uncertainty is essential - students are entitled to their allowances in order to sustain themselves, continue with academic activities online, as well as to pay for learning materials."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-student-allowance-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-20-apr-2020-0000>

**National Youth Development Agency. National Youth Development Agency opens the Youth Micro Enterprises Relief Fund (YMERF) to assist youth during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

"Government has introduced a number of interventions aimed at assisting businesses in general, and Youth-Owned Enterprises in particular during the COVID-19 lockdown period. These interventions include the Debt Relief Fund and the SMME Support Intervention by the Department of Small Business Development. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) has opened the Youth Micro Enterprises Relief Fund (YMERF) aimed at assisting youth enterprises who might not qualify for other funds. This fund will respond to challenges facing youth owned businesses such as inability to pay employees, lack of income, including waiting periods for other funding mechanisms etc. Funding will be capped at R 10 000 for every qualifying business. More details about the NYDA Youth Micro Enterprise Relief Fund are available on [www.nyda.gov.za](http://www.nyda.gov.za) and on all NYDA social media platforms."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/national-youth-development-agency-opens-youth-micro-enterprises-relief-fund-ymerf-assist>

[Back to Contents](#)

## LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

## 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) published in [GN318 in GG 43107 of 18 March 2020](#) as amended by [RGN398 of 25 March 2020](#), [RGN419 of 26 March 2020](#), [RGN446 of 2 April 2020](#) and [RGN465 of 16 April 2020](#). Annexure B to the Regulations is hereby amended by the substitution in Part A for item(i) of subparagraph (1) of the following item:

"(i) Any food product, including non-alcoholic beverages, but excluding cooked hot food;"

RGN471 GG 43240 p3 20Apr2020

[http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43240\\_20-04\\_COGTA.pdf](http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43240_20-04_COGTA.pdf)

*Media Release***Department of Cooperative Governance. Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma amends Disaster Management Regulations. 20 April 2020.**

“The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, (CoGTA) Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, designated under section 3 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) has in terms of section 27 (2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 signed and gazetted an amendment to the regulations. Annexure B to the regulations is hereby amended by the substitution in Part A for item (i) of subparagraph (1) of the following item: Any food product, including non-alcoholic beverages, but excluding cooked hot food. The amendment regulations issued in terms of section 27(2) seeks to clarify the exclusion of hot cooked food from the classification of essential goods.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-nkosazana-dlamini-zuma-amends-disaster-management-regulations-20-apr-2020-0000>

**South African Police Service. Police on arrest of members contravening Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown regulations. 20 April 2020.**

“While the greater majority of SAPS members have been hard at work to flatten the curve of the spread of the Covid-19 virus, there have been some members disregarding the Regulations as well as committing some heinous crimes thus bringing into disrepute both the SAPS as well as the good work its members are doing. During this past weekend twelve (12) members including a reservist were arrested in three separate incidents, following their alleged involvement in the violation of National Disaster Management Regulations as well as corruption.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/police-arrest-members-contravening-coronavirus-covid-19-lockdown-regulations-20-apr-2020>

[Back to Contents](#)

**PUBLIC SERVICES***Media Release***Public Service Commission. Public Service Commission on government contact details during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

“The Public Service Commission (PSC) has sent a communique to all Directors-General (DGs) and Head of Departments (HODs) who have been directed to identify the minimum critical and essential services that must remain available to the public during the lockdown period, to also update reachable contact details on their websites for the citizens for effective service delivery. Generally, the COVID-19 lockdown period is likely to present some challenges with regard to service delivery, particularly communications for those in the front line offering a variety of services. Departments that have locked down who are working at strategies to intensify delivery of services, should also be mindful of providing reachable contact details as the Public Service Commission has been inundated with unanswered calls as well as unreachable numbers.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/title-20-apr-2020-0000>

[Back to Contents](#)

**SAFETY AND SECURITY***Media Releases***North West Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development. MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi embarks on a programme to decontaminate informal trade sites during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

“North West MEC for Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism MEC Kenetswe Mosenogi kick started a decontamination initiative on Friday at Ikageng Location and Khuma in JB Marks Local Municipality respectively. The North West Trade-Areas Decontamination initiative is a consequence of social solidarity undertaken in partnership with the Private Sector as part of the overall efforts considered by the North West Provincial Government to curb and combat the spread of the Coronavirus. According to MEC Mosenogi fighting coronavirus requires a concerted effort to protect people from harmful environment. Decontaminating places of trade will also create a deep sense of security and improve the confidence level of both our local businesses and communities.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-kenetswe-mosenogi-embarks-programme-decontaminate-informal-trade-sites-during>

**Western Cape Community Safety. MEC Albert Fritz on newly deployed law enforcement officers to enforce Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

“The Minister of Community Safety, Albert Fritz, commends the 500 newly deployed law enforcement officers, appointed through the Western Cape Safety Plan, who are supporting the enforcement of the lockdown. The law enforcement officers are working with SAPS and SANDF as part of a joint effort.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-albert-fritz-newly-deployed-law-enforcement-officers-enforce-coronavirus-covid-19>

[Back to Contents](#)

## STATISTICS

*Media Release***Statistics South Africa. StatSA launches online survey to gauge the impact of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. 20 April 2020.**

“Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) is appealing to the public to participate in an online survey it launched recently to gauge the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. “Accurate, real-time statistics are of utmost importance in times of crisis,” said Statistician-General Risenga Maluleke. “These surveys will be used to see how COVID-19 has impacted the population and will be used by government to inform their strategy going forward. For us to win this fight, the decisions we make must be evidenced-based.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/statsa-launches-online-survey-gauge-impact-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-20-apr-2020-0000>

[Back to Contents](#)

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY

*Media Comment***Maxwell, Kim. SA wine producers lose R200m a week from export ban. Business Maverick, 21 April 2020.**

Industry bodies and producers ask the government to throw a crucial agricultural export sector a lockdown lifeline.

[https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-21-sa-wine-producers-lose-r200m-a-week-from-export-ban/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Tuesday%2021%20April%202020%20copy&utm\\_content=Business%20Maverick%20Tuesday%2021%20April%202020%20copy+CID\\_9367c3f33bb66d1283d4006386683c53&utm\\_source=TouchBasePro&utm\\_term=Industry%20bodies%20and%20producers%20ask%20the%20government%20to%20throw%20a%20crucial%20agricultural%20export%20sector%20a%20lockdown%20lifeline](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-04-21-sa-wine-producers-lose-r200m-a-week-from-export-ban/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Tuesday%2021%20April%202020%20copy&utm_content=Business%20Maverick%20Tuesday%2021%20April%202020%20copy+CID_9367c3f33bb66d1283d4006386683c53&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=Industry%20bodies%20and%20producers%20ask%20the%20government%20to%20throw%20a%20crucial%20agricultural%20export%20sector%20a%20lockdown%20lifeline)

[Back to Contents](#)

## WATER &amp; SANITATION

*Media Releases***Department of Water and Sanitation. Deputy Minister David Mahlobo hands over water tanks in Limpopo municipalities. 20 April 2020.**

“In an effort to ensure that rural communities have access to water, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr David Mahlobo has handed over water tanks to the communities of Sekhwama and Sefene in Molemole Local Municipality on Monday, 20 April 2020. This is in response to a directive from Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister, Ms Lindiwe Sisulu to ensure that all communities have access to water so that they can wash their hands regularly with a soap to reduce the spread of coronavirus. To date, a total of 440 water tanks and 34 water tankers have been delivered to various communities in Limpopo province.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-david-mahlobo-hands-over-water-tanks-limpopo-municipalities-20-apr-2020>

**Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation. Water and Sanitation delivers water to various municipalities in Mpumalanga during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 20 April 2020.**

“500 water tanks delivered for reliable water supply in Mpumalanga. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has delivered a total of 500 water tanks and 56 water tankers (trucks) in various municipalities in Mpumalanga Province. The water tanks are part of the interventions by the Department to enable reliable supply of water to communities to ensure that people regularly wash their hands with soap and water to contain the spread of the deadly Coronavirus.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/water-and-sanitation-delivers-water-various-municipalities-mpumalanga-during-coronavirus>

[Back to Contents](#)

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