



Covid-19 Regulatory Update
25 March 2020

AGRICULTURE

Media Statement

R1.2bn set aside to address effects of COVID-19.

2020 March 24 SANews

“Agriculture Minister Thoko Didiza says her department has set aside a package of R1.2 billion to address the effects of the Coronavirus and to ensure sustainable food production during and after the pandemic. “I appeal to the public not to embark on panic buying, as the President has indicated; the country has sufficient food supplies. Panic buying will only cause disruptions and inconvenience in the food system. I urge you, fellow-citizens, to also be considerate and purchase that which is sufficient for your needs,” Minister Didiza said.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/r12bn-set-aside-address-effects-covid-19>

[Back to Contents](#)

COMPETITION

Government Gazettes

Competition Act 89 of 1998

Covid-19 block exemption for the:

- Banking Sector, 2020.
RGN355 GG 43127 p3 23Mar2020
<http://www.dti.gov.za/gazettes/43127.pdf>
- Retail Property Sector, 2020: Regulations will come into effect on the date of publication.
RGN358 GG 43134 p3 24Mar2020
http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43134_24-3_DTI.pdf

[Back to Contents](#)

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Government Gazette

Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act 130 of /1993

Notice on Compensation for Occupationally- Acquired Novel Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) under Act as amended.

GenN193 GG 43126 p3 23Mar2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43126_23-3_Labour.pdf

Guideline

Department: Employment and Labour. Workplace Preparedness: COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-19 virus).

<http://www.labour.gov.za/DocumentCenter/Publications/Occupational%20Health%20and%20Safety/COVID-19%20Guideline%20Mar2020.pdf>

*Media Statement***UIF, CF safety net intervention details.**

2020 Mar 24 SANews

Government has unveiled employment related plans expected to soften the blow of the COVID-19 countrywide lockdown, on workers and firms.

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/uif-cf-safety-net-intervention-details>

[Back to Contents](#)

FINANCIAL LAW*Government Gazette***Competition Act 89 of 1998**

Covid-19 block exemption for the:

- Banking Sector, 2020.
RGN355 GG 43127 p3 23Mar2020
<http://www.dti.gov.za/gazettes/43127.pdf>

*Media Statement***Banking relief for consumers.**

2020 Mar 24 SANews

“South African businesses and members of the general public on the edge of financial ruin due to the COVID-19 outbreak will breathe a sigh of relief after South African banks agreed to implement debt relief measures.

This comes after the banks agreed to government interventions, which will see competition laws relaxed amid the outbreak. The reprieve was announced by Trade, Industry and Competition Minister, Ebrahim Patel, during a media briefing on Tuesday... “In particular, the exemption will allow the banks to coordinate on matters like payment holidays and debt relief for business and individuals in financial stress. These will also put limitations on asset repossession,” said the Minister. Banks will also coordinate on extension of credit lines to the affected.

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/banking-relief-consumers>

[Back to Contents](#)

MEDICAL LAW*Media Statements***Kahn, Tamar. SA’s Covid-19 tally rises to 709.**

2020 Mar 25 Business Day

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/health/2020-03-25-sas-covid-19-tally-rises-to-709/>

KZN amends hospital visiting hours.

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 Mar 24 SANews

“As the country deals with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu has amended hospital visiting hours across the province.

Simelane-Zulu announced that as of Monday 23 March 2020, visiting hours at all health hospitals have been limited to one hour from 1-2pm.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/kzn-amends-hospital-visiting-hours>

SA tests drugs for COVID-19 treatment.

2020 Mar 24 SA News

“A number of existing drugs are being re-purposed and tested for efficacy of the potential treatment for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). “Preliminary work on the development of vaccines has started with University of Cape Town (UCT), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Biovac. Progress is expected in over 18 months,” said Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande.

...The Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) has already availed R12 million and will redirect an additional R30 million. “It has become urgent to locally manufacture reagents for testing kits. These are currently being imported and the lockdown may threaten access to supply,” the Minister said.

The Department of Science and Technology has negotiated the repurposing of various facilities and labs to respond to the outbreak..”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-tests-drugs-covid-19-treatment>

[Back to Contents](#)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Media Statement

All systems go for early social grant payments.

2020 Mar 24 SANews

“Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu says the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) is ready for social grant payments as from 31 March 2020.

Unpacking the department’s intervention measures on Coronavirus (COVID-19) during a Social Cluster briefing in Pretoria on Tuesday, Zulu said retailers and the banking industry are working closely with SASSA to ensure that everyone is able to access their money.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/all-systems-go-early-social-grant-payments>

[Back to Contents](#)

TOURISM

Media Statement

Tourism on Coronavirus COVID-19 national lockdown for the restaurant industry. 24 Mar 2020.

“COVID-19 national lockdown notice to the restaurant industry

In his statement to the nation delivered on Monday, 23 March 2020, His Excellency the President Cyril Ramaphosa announced an escalation of measures to combat the global pandemic, COVID-19. The National Coronavirus Command Council has decided to enforce a nation-wide lockdown for 21 days with effect from midnight Thursday, 26 March 2020, until midnight Thursday, 16 April 2020.

In compliance with the nation-wide lockdown it should be noted that ALL restaurants, cafes, bars, coffee shops will be required to comply with the nation-wide lockdown for 21 days.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/tourism-coronavirus-covid-19-national-lockdown-restaurant-industry-24-mar-2020-0000>

[Back to Contents](#)

WATER AND SANITATION

Media Statement

Minister Lindiwe Sisulu on interventions to curb the spread of Coronavirus COVID-19. 25 Mar 2020.

“Remarks by Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation, Hon. LN Sisulu, at the occasion of media briefing to outline interventions to curb the spread of COVID-19

A day after President Ramaphosa announced a State of National Disaster on the 20th of this month, I directed my team to identify communities most at risk to the spread of the virus, and draw up a plan to provide water and sanitation to such communities. I did so because of the realisation that time was of the essence and we did not want to wait until the virus reached overcrowded and informal settlements. It was important that we prepared - to ensure that we did not find ourselves overwhelmed, thereby allowing the spread of the virus to continue unabated...”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-sisulu-interventions-curb-spread-coronavirus-covid-19-25-mar-2020-0000>

[Back to Contents](#)

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS RESEARCHED AND PROVIDED IN GOOD FAITH. WHILST EVERY CARE IS TAKEN IN THE COMPILATION OF THE **COVID-19 REGULATORY UPDATE**, LEXINFO CC CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, NOR FOR THE OMISSION OF ANY INFORMATION, NOR FOR ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE USE IN ANY WAY OF SUCH INFORMATION.

For Subscription Information: | Tel 082 690 8890 | Email: alert@lexinfo.co.za | Fax: 086-589 3696 | PO Box 36216, Glosderry, 7702