



Covid-19 Regulatory Update 26 March 2020 (Additional Update)

Covid-19 related guidelines and regulations available at <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>.

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AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Minister Thoko Didiza: Food security declared an essential service during Coronavirus COVID-19. 26 Mar 2020.

“Speaking notes by Ms. Thoko Didiza, MP Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development - A Message to the Agriculture and Food Sector of South Africa

The agriculture and food supply sector remains a vital cog during this period. In terms of the Regulation No. 398 of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, the sector as a sector responsible for food security has been declared as essential. This declaration reemphasises that entire food value chain, from farm-related operations, agro-processing and food manufacturing, logistics and related services, wholesale and retail services, and all support functions that ensure efficient delivery of the agro-food system have to be functional to ensure that there is access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-food-security-declared-essential-service-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

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COMMUNICATIONS

Media Release

Government Communications welcomes Telkom’s zero-rating of essential online government information sources. 26 Mar 2020.

“The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) welcomes the agreement reached between Telkom and the Competition Commission which among other provisions, narrows the digital divide in the country by offering zero rated access to essential on line government services. Telkom’s offer includes free public access to the GCIS managed www.gov.za the gateway to government information and services

Telkom is also offering free access to educational institutions, including primary websites of more than 6 universities and FET institutions as well as knowledge- enhancing sites such as Wikipedia, Everything Science, Everything Maths and DBE Cloud.

Telkom and the Competition Commission announced an agreement on Wednesday 25 March which outlines Telkom's contribution to improved competition in the delivery of fixed broadband access by operators in this sector."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-communications-welcomes-telkom%E2%80%99s-zero-rating-essential-online-government>

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EDUCATION

Media Releases

Minister Angie Motshekga on Basic Education Sector Plans to support learners during COVID-19 lockdown. 26 Mar 2020.

"Together with provinces DBE has prepared online and broadcast support resources comprising subject content and a focus on Grade 12 learners and the promotion of reading for all the grades. Some of the programmes will be available from April 1. The Department is working closely with key Partners to coordinate and make available content tailored to support our learners' educational and health needs during this time. We will make the following resources available: Broadcast lessons working with the SABC TV and Radio,

DSTV channel 180

E.tv has allocated a dedicated channel for 3 months on the Openview platform.

Broadcast of lessons on COMMUNITY RADIO stations around the country.

Electronic readers available via all platforms in partnership with Vodacom, MTN, Telkom and Cell-C

2Enable App as a freely downloadable educational platform with more than 2000 electronic readers in the indigenous languages

Promote the African Storybook series through the 2Enable App

The National Reading Coalition has identified extensive lists of additional resources and organizations that are willing to make their materials available.

Free access to Siyavula Maths and Science support in partnership with MTN and

Free access to the Vodacom Virtual Classroom."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-plans-support-learners-during-covid-19>

Minister Blade Nzimande on NSFAS Covid-19 contingency plan and disbursements. 26 Mar 2020.

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, is pleased with the report from the NSFAS Administrator, Dr Randall Carolissen on the contingency plans and disbursements of NSFAS student bursaries during the COVID-19 lockdown period. According to the report, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, (NSFAS) has processed almost all the applications received to date including the TVETs and University walk-ins received during the first quarter of 2020."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-nsfas-covid-19-contingency-plan-and-disbursements-26-mar-2020-0000>

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EMPLOYMENT

Government Gazettes

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

Directive by the Minister of Employment and Labour in terms of regulation 10 (8) issued by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in terms of section 27 (2) of the Act: Covid -19 Temporary Employee / Employer Relief Scheme, 2020.

GN215 GG 43161 p3 26Mar2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43152_26-3_Labour.pdf

Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995

National Bargaining Council for the Clothing Manufacturing Industry: Extension to Non-parties of the COVID-19 Lockdown Collective Agreement.

RGN403 GG 43152 p3 26Mar2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43152_26-3_Labour.pdf

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MEDIA LAW

Media Release

Government on media reporting during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown period. 26 Mar 2020.

"Government's classification of media work as an essential service during the COVID-19 national state of disaster and lockdown is a measure to ensure South Africans and the international community have access to vital information during this time. Minister in the Presidency Jackson Mthembu MP has expressed government's appreciation for the

role media in the country and internationally have played in bringing information to South Africans from all walks of life and geographic locations. In South Africa, the space, airtime and social media engagement devoted by quality journalism to the outbreak and the national response, has contributed in reducing misinformation, negative impact of fake news and unfounded panic emerging from some social media users and other sources.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-media-reporting-during-covid-19-lockdown-period-26-mar-2020-0000>

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MEDICAL LAW

Media Statements

African Union Bureau to hold discussions. 26 Mar 2020.

“President Ramaphosa, in his capacity as the Chair of the African Union will today, 26 March 2020, hold a teleconference with the members of the AU Bureau to coordinate the continent’s approach to the coronavirus pandemic. President Ramaphosa, on behalf of South Africa, is the Chair of the Bureau which is composed of the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo, H.E Félix Tshisekedi, Republic of Mali, H.E Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Republic of Kenya, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta and Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E Abdel Fattah el-Sisi including the AUC Chairperson, H.E Moussa Faki Mahamat. The consultation is aimed at developing a common response of the African Union on containing the spread of the coronavirus and mitigating its impact on the people and economies of Africa.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-holds-teleconference-au-bureau-members-coordinate-continent%E2%80%99s>

Funds made available for testing potential COVID-19 drugs.

2020 Mar 26 SA News

“The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation says R12 million has been made available and a further R30 million will be redirected towards COVID-19 interventions. This includes re-purposing and testing a number of existing drugs for efficacy of the potential treatment for COVID-19. “The Department of Science and Innovation task team is engaging with the Department of Health, the Medical Research Council, and the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority to mobilise funding, reprioritising research strategies and creating an enabling ethical and regulatory framework to facilitate research on the COVID-19 virus,” said the department in a statement.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/funds-made-available-testing-potential-covid-19-drugs>

President tests negative for Coronavirus. 26 Mar 2020.

President Cyril Ramaphosa has tested negative for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The President submitted for testing as a precautionary measure upon the advice of his physicians on Tuesday 24th March 2020 and received his results last night. As Head of State and Chair of the National Command Council (NCC) the President has a rigorous public engagements schedule; and has, during the course of the last few weeks, held numerous meetings with a wide cross section of people from all walks of life.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-has-tested-negative-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-covid-19-26-mar>

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STATISTICS

Media Release

StatsSA on impact of Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown on the collection and publication of official statistics. 26 Mar 2020.

“Statistics South Africa (Stats SA’s) ability to publish official statistics will be impacted by the lockdown announced by President Ramaphosa. As most businesses will be closed over that period, and movement will be restricted, data collection for both economic and household surveys will not be possible. As the lockdown goes into effect at midnight on 26 March 2020, economic and social releases scheduled for March have been brought forward to that date. The lockdown will result in changes to our scheduled release calendar for April. Please refer to the publication schedule on our website, www.statssa.gov.za, to keep track of these.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/lockdown-will-impact-collection-and-publication-official-statistics-26-mar-2020-0000>

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Release

CIPC to grant essential service business operation approval.

2020 Mar 26 SA News

“All businesses that will be allowed to provide essential services during the 21-day COVID-19 lockdown will be required to seek approval from the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the DTIC). This is in terms of the National State of Disaster gazetted regulations which were published on Wednesday by Cooperative Governance and

Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma. In a statement, DTIC Minister Ebrahim Patel said such businesses are required to apply to the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) Bizportal website at www.bizportal.gov.za .”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/cipc-grant-essential-service-business-operation-approval>

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TRANSPORTATION

Government Gazettes

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

Measures to address, prevent and combat the Spread of COVID-19 in the:

- Air Services.
GN415 GG 43160 p3 26Mar2020
http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43160_26-3_Transport.pdf
- Cross-Border Road Transport.
GN413 GG 43158 p3 26March2020
http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43158_26-3_Transport.pdf
- Railway Operations.
GN414 GG 43159 p3 26March2020
http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43159_26-3_Transport.pdf
- Public transport services.
GN412 GG 43157 p3 26Mar2020
http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43157_26-3_Transport.pdf

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