



Covid-19 Regulatory Update

 **Lexinfo**
Library & Legal Information Consultants

Covid-19 Regulatory Update: 14 May 2020

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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/>

Lexinfo Practice Management Alert



Practice Management Alert

 **Lexinfo**
Library & Legal Information Consultants

This newsletter is published bi-monthly and focuses on issues such as client care, innovation, legal technology, management, leadership, remote working, work-life balance, knowledge management, libraries, succession, management, skills development, artificial intelligence, human resources, libraries, marketing and branding.

The latest edition, March to April 2020, will be available on 15 May 2020. This edition contains valuable references to various international resources and case studies on the challenges and possible solutions for legal practices in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The March to April 2020 edition can be purchased for only R99 including VAT for single users.

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CONFIRMED CASES

Media Statements

North West Health. North West Health on Coronavirus COVID-19 confirmed cases in North West Province as on 12 May. 13 May 2020.

“The total number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in the North West Province as at Tuesday, 12 May 2020 is 51. Bojanala District now has 36 cases, of which 22 is in Rustenburg. North West Province contributes 0.5% of South Africa’s burden of disease. ...A total of 24 COVID-19 confirmed positive persons have recovered.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/north-west-health-coronavirus-covid-19-confirmed-cases-north-west-province-12-may-13-may>

Western Cape Office of Premier. Premier Alan Winde update on Coronavirus COVID-19 on 13 May. 13 May 2020.

“As of 1pm on 13 May, the Western Cape has 4367 active cases of Covid-19, with a total of 6767 confirmed cases and 2283 recoveries....The Western Cape has recorded an additional 7 COVID-19 deaths-bringing the total number of deaths from the virus in the province to 117 .”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/premier-alan-winde-update-coronavirus-covid-19-13-may-13-may-2020-0000>

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Media Statement

Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sport. Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sport on Provincial Relief Funding applications deadline. 13 May 2020.

“On 5 May 2020, the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS) opened the application process for relief options for our provincial cultural, creative and sports sectors. There is one week left for applications to be submitted. The final deadline is Tuesday, 19 May at 16h00.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/one-more-week-apply-provincial-relief-cultural-creative-and-sport-sectors-13-may-2020-0000>

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CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

Admission of Guilt Fines

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

Determination of Admission of Guilt Fines in respect of offences committed in terms of the Disaster Management Act Regulations, 2020:

Mpumalanga:

- Administrative Region 8: Mpumalanga.

https://www.judiciary.org.za/images/Determinations/Mpumalanga_Province/Administrative_Region_8_-_Mpumalanga_-_Determination_of_Admission_of_Guilt_Fines_in_Respect_of_Offences_in_Terms_of_the_Disaster_Management_Act_Regulation_2020.pdf

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EDUCATION

Government Gazette

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

Regulations relating to COVID-19: Directions to permit travel and recommencement of studies for final year medical students registered at South African public universities during the academic year 2020. The purpose of the directions is to:

- (a) Allow for the once off travel of final year medical students studying at public higher education institutions to travel from their homes to the university campus where they are registered for study during the period 8 -31 May 2020.
- (b) Permit the recommencement of the academic year for final year medical students at South African public universities with effect from 11 May 2020.

Directions shall be deemed to have come into effect from 08 May 2020.

GN533 GG 43319 p3 13May2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43319_13-5_HigherEduTraining.pdf

Media Release

SA Government News Agency. Over 3000 schools to receive water tanks.

2020 May 13 SA News

“The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has identified over 3 475 schools across the country to be supplied with water tanks ahead of the reopening of schools. Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said the department has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Basic Education (DBE). The MoU, said Sisulu, is aimed at helping the DBE with all the elements needed for the reopening of schools.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/over-3000-schools-receive-water-tanks>

Media Statement

Western Cape Education. Western Cape Education on donating meals and online safety curriculum for learners. 13 May 2020.

“Over 1 million meals have been served in the past month as part of the Western Cape Education Department’s emergency school feeding programme. This is a tremendous achievement, made possible by the school staff, management teams, volunteers, and WCED officials who answered the call to feed vulnerable children....The WCED partnered with Google to develop an Online Safety curriculum that seeks to teach learners the fundamentals of digital safety. This curriculum was piloted last year so that areas for development could be identified. The pilot identified a number of successes and challenges, and was used to revise the curriculum before rolling out the lessons as part of the Life Orientation curriculum.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-education-donating-meals-and-online-safety-curriculum-learners-13-may-2020>

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EMPLOYMENT LAW

Case

NUMSA (obo Members) and SA Cabin Crew Association (obo Members) v South African Airways SOC Limited (in Business Rescue) and others (case no J424/20, Johannesburg Labour Court 08 May 2020).

Copy available on request from alert@lexinfo.co.za

Media comment: Smith, Carin. [SAA retrenchment notices were unfair, court rules.](#)

Circular

Western Cape Department of Health. Circular H 70 of 2020: Preventing and managing coronavirus infection in the workplace. 6 May 2020.

<https://coronavirus.westerncape.gov.za/files/atoms/files/Preventing%20and%20managing%20coronavirus%20infection%20in%20the%20workplace%20-%206%20May%202020.pdf>

Media Statement

Department of Employment and Labour. Employment and Labour on organisations not complying with Occupational Health and Safety Act. 13 May 2020.

“The Department of Employment and Labour’s Inspection and Enforcement Service (IES) unit finds two of every five inspected organisations not complying with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).

This is after the IES conducted inspections in 2789 workplaces throughout the country starting from April 30, 2020 to May 08, 2020. During the inspections it was found that 1237 organisations were not compliant resulting in the issuance of 1463 notices comprised of Contravention Notices; Improvement Notices and Prohibition Notices.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/compliance-still-challenge-many-organisations-department-employment-and-labour-13-may-2020>

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ENERGY AND MINING

Media Release

SA Government News Agency. Eskom embarks on free basic electricity programme campaign.

2020 May 13 SA News

“In an effort to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 national lockdown on indigent households, Eskom has launched a campaign aimed at raising awareness of the Free Basic Electricity (FBE) programme.

The programme is targeted at giving limited free electricity to indigent households.

Qualifying households, in terms of the government's policy of providing support to the unemployed, low-earning, the destitute and the elderly, are encouraged to approach their municipalities to register as indigents in order to collect their allocated free basic electricity every month."

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/eskom-embarks-free-basic-electricity-programme-campaign>

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FINANCIAL LAW

Booklet

National Treasury, South African Reserve Bank and Banking Association of South Africa. Answering your questions about the COVID-19 LOAN GUARANTEE SCHEME. 12 May 2020.

<https://www.resbank.co.za/Lists/News%20and%20Publications/Attachments/9931/COVID19%20Loan%20Guarantee%20Scheme%20Question%20and%20Answers.pdf>

Media Statement

National Treasury, South African Reserve Bank and Banking Association of South Africa. Loan guarantee scheme opens. 12 May 2020.

<https://www.resbank.co.za/Lists/News%20and%20Publications/Attachments/9931/Loan%20guarantee%20scheme%20opens.pdf>

Notice

Prudential Authority and Co-operative Banks Development Agency (CBDA). Joint Communication 1 of 2020. COVID-19: Regulatory response. 8 May 2020.

"This Communication sets out the PA's current position concerning COVID-19 and its impact on the economy, and more especially, in the sector in which the CFIs and co-op banks operate. The approach of the PA is supported by the CBDA."

<https://www.resbank.co.za/Lists/News%20and%20Publications/Attachments/9929/PA%20and%20CBDA%20-%20Joint%20Communication%201%20of%202020%20-%20CFIs%20and%20Co-op%20banks.pdf>

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HOUSING / HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Media Statement

Western Cape Human Settlements. Western Cape Human Settlements on beneficiaries of Ceres Housing Project. 13 May 2020.

"It is anticipated that in excess of 200 beneficiaries will move into their new homes in the Vredebes Housing Project in Ceres within the next few weeks. This is within the Witzenberg municipal area... The Witzenberg municipal area has 178 positive COVID-19 cases. After the Cape Metro, this is the second highest municipal infection rate in the Western Cape. As part of our fight against COVID-19, which has placed our country in an unprecedented challenging period, we have to ensure these beneficiaries take immediate occupancy of their homes. This will assist in maintaining social distancing, while strengthening the practice of effective and good hygiene."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/ceres-housing-project-13-may-2020-0000>

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LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

Media Comment

Mailovich, Claudi. SA's legal practitioners face financial collapse amid strict lockdown regulations.

2020 May 13 Business Day

"SA's legal practitioners, especially those in small firms in rural areas with sparse access to justice, face financial collapse amid the strict coronavirus lockdown regulations, with more than half having lost significant income, according to a survey. With criticism around the legality and constitutionality of the lockdown, and its effect on the economy, foreshadowing numerous court challenges, a recent survey found that 63% of 549 legal practitioners lost more than 60% of their income during April.... When the issue of relief for lawyers was raised during a webinar with deputy minister of justice John Jeffery on Monday, Jeffery said it was something that the department has to put more energy into, adding, "I agree it is urgent.""

<https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2020-05-13-sas-legal-practitioners-face-financial-collapse-amid-strict-lockdown-regulations/>

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Media Release

Parliament. Select Committee on Appropriations Hears that Responses to Covid-19 Expose Flaws in the Local Government Fiscal Framework. 13 May 2020.

“The Select Committee on Appropriations today heard that the required responses to the Covid-19 pandemic have exposed flaws that are within the Local Government Fiscal Framework, and consideration should be made for the direct transference of provincial grants to the municipalities.”

<https://www.parliament.gov.za/press-releases/select-committee-appropriations-hears-responses-covid-19-expose-flaws-local-government-fiscal-framework>

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LOCKDOWN

Media Release

SA Government News Agency. Government mulls the easing of COVID-19 lockdown.

2020 May SA News

“Government is considering a proposal to move the country to level 3 of the national COVID-19 lockdown by the end of May, President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Wednesday.

Addressing the nation on Wednesday night, President Cyril Ramaphosa said government is preparing for a further easing of the lockdown and a gradual opening of the economy, from the current level 4 lockdown.”

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

Media Statement

Presidency. Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on South Africa’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. 13 May 2020.

<http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/statement-president-cyril-ramaphosa-south-africa%E2%80%99s-response-coronavirus-pandemic>

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