



Covid-19 Regulatory Update

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Library & Legal Information Consultants

Covid-19 Regulatory Update: 18 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

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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, is now available. 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.

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AGRICULTURE

Media Release

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. Minister Thoko Didiza: Outcome of the Coronavirus Covid-19 Agricultural Disaster Fund application process. 17 May 2020.

“The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza announced today the outcome of the Covid-19 Agricultural Disaster Fund application process. The fund intervention of R1,2 billion aims to address the effects of the Coronavirus and ensure sustainable food production post the pandemic. The smallholder and communal farmers’ application process opened on 8 April and closed on 22 April 2020 and 33 000 manual application forms were distributed through our provincial and district offices, commodity and civil society organisations.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thoko-didiza-outcome-coronavirus-covid-19-agricultural-disaster-fund-application>

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CHIEF JUSTICE

Parliamentary Meeting

Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services

Minutes of meeting held in a virtual format with the Office of Chief Justice and the Information Regulator to discuss their Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans and Budgets for 2020/21.

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

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COMMUNICATIONS

Media Release

Department of Communications. Government joins the world in observing World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. 17 May 2020.

“Acting Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Jackson Mthembu, today joins the world in observing World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD). Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly 51 years ago, on 17 May 1969, this day is aimed at raising awareness on the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide. “Today we observe this day when the world is seized with curbing the spread of the novel Coronavirus, and South Africa too has not been spared. The fight against COVID-19 has put into sharp focus the need for the sector to patriotically work as a collective and deploy its capabilities in fighting the spread of the virus,” said Minister Mthembu.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-joins-world-observing-world-telecommunication-and-information-society-day-17-may>

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CONFIRMED CASES

Media Releases

Department of Health. Minister Zweli Mkhize confirms total of 13 524 cases of Coronavirus COVID-19. 15 May 2020.

“As of today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa is 13 524.

... 421 555 tests have been conducted with 18 537 done in the last 24 hour cycle....

Regrettably we report a further 9 COVID-19 related deaths- this brings the total national deaths to 247.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-confirms-total-13-524-cases-coronavirus-covid-19-15-may-2020-0000>

Department of Health. Minister Zweli Mkhize confirms total of 14 355 cases of Coronavirus COVID-19. 16 May 2020.

“As of today, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa is 14 355 with 831 new cases identified in the last 24 hour cycle of testing....

439 559 tests have been conducted with 18 004 done in the last 24-hour cycle. Regrettably we report a further 14 COVID-19 related deaths- this brings the total national deaths to 261.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-zweli-mkhize-confirms-total-14-355-cases-coronavirus-covid-19-16-may-2020-0000>

North West Health. North West Health on Coronavirus COVID-19 confirmed cases in North West Province as on 14 May. 15 May 2020.

“The total number of COVID-19 confirmed cases in the North West Province as at Thursday, 14 May 2020 is 58. This represents an increase of six cases from previously reported cases.

...A total of 28 COVID-19 confirmed positive persons have recovered. Twenty recoveries were recorded in Bojanala, five in Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, two in Ngaka Modiri Molema and one in Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati.”
<https://www.gov.za/speeches/north-west-health-coronavirus-covid-19-confirmed-cases-north-west-province-14-may-15-may>

Western Cape Office of the Premier. Premier Alan Winde update on Coronavirus COVID-19 on 15 May. 15 May 2020.

“As of 1pm on 15 May, the Western Cape has 4592 active cases of Covid-19, with a total of 7586 confirmed cases and 2857 recoveries.

- Total confirmed COVID-19 cases: 7586;
- Total recoveries: 2857;
- Total deaths: 137;
- Total active cases (currently infected patients): 4592;
- Total number of tests: 80 100;
- Hospital admissions: 345 of which 123 are in ICU or high care.
- Unallocated: 127 (19 recovered).

The Western Cape has recorded an additional eight COVID-19 deaths-bringing the total number of deaths from the virus in the province to 137 . We extend our condolences to their loved ones at this time.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/premier-alan-winde-update-coronavirus-covid-19-15-may-15-may-2020-0000>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. Tributes pour in for late Dr Mini.

2020 May 15 SA News

“The Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) has joined the many voices paying tribute to the late Chairperson of the Council of Medical Schemes (CMS), Dr Clarence Mini. According to a statement issued by CMS on Tuesday, Dr Mini, aged 69, contracted the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and was hospitalised for more than a month.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/tributes-pour-late-dr-mini>

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COURTS

Directive

High Court of Mpumalanga. Directives 5, 5A and 5B.

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

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CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

Media Comment

Dearden, Lizzie. All prosecutions under new Coronavirus Act unlawful, review finds: Vast majority of charges under separate Health Protection Regulations were correct, CPS says. (United Kingdom)

“All prosecutions under the new Coronavirus Act have been unlawful, a review has found. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) revealed that all 44 charges it had so far checked had been withdrawn or overturned. Those wrongly convicted include a woman who was fined £660 after being stopped while “loitering” at a railway station in Newcastle. Several Coronavirus Act cases, including some against children, are ongoing and the number of dropped cases is expected to rise. The CPS launched a review of all prosecutions under coronavirus laws after several miscarriages of justice were highlighted by the media.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-act-unlawful-prosecutions-review-uk-a9516566.html>

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EDUCATION

Media Comment

Govender, Prega. Covid-19: School on alternate days or morning, afternoon division mooted: three options discussed ahead of minister Angie Motshekga's briefing today.

2020 May 18 TimesLive

“The Department of Basic Education is proposing that the school timetable be rearranged to allow different grades to attend classes on alternate days of the week or in alternate weeks. Schools could also introduce a platoon system in which pupils in certain grades attend classes in the morning and others in the afternoon. These are the three options the department's director-general, Mathanzima Mveli, put on the table during a virtual meeting with governing body associations and a principals' association on Sunday.”

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-05-18-covid-19-school-on-alternate-days-or-morning-afternoon-division-mooted/>

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EMPLOYMENT LAW

Government Gazette

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

COVID-19 Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme (C19 Ters), 2020: Further amendment to the 25 March 2020 Directive ([RGN415 GG 43161 26 March 2020](#) amended on 8 April 2020 and 16 April 2020, corrected on 20 April 2020 and further amended on 30 April 2020). Consolidated Directive as of 20 April 2020 available at

<http://www.labour.gov.za/DocumentCenter/Regulations%20and%20Notices/Notices/Unemployment%20Insurance%20Fund/Consolidated%20COVID%20directives.pdf>

RGN541 GG 43330 p3 15May2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43330_15-5_EmploymentLabour.pdf

Media Releases

Department of Employment and Labour. Minister Thulas Nxesi hails improved UIF systems. 15 May 2020.

“By close of business yesterday, the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) processed and paid COVID-19 TERS relief payments to the tune of R836 603 171.68 benefitting 195 521 workers represented by 8 495 employers. This brings to 2 288 295 the total number of workers who have been given relief during this lockdown which may be in lieu of or a top up to their salaries. The total amount disbursed since April 16, 2020 is just a bit below R13-billion (R12 752 215 741.50). “Of importance is that we have now started paying workers directly to their bank accounts not through employers only. What this means is that workers do not have to wait until employers transfer their benefits to their accounts. While the claim is submitted by the employer who would have all the information that is pertinent to make the payments, the actual payment goes straight to the account of the worker thus eliminating further waiting period” , said the Department of Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-thulas-nxesi-hails-improved-uif-systems-15-may-2020-0000>

Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism. Western Cape Economic Development on disbursing of UIF TERS Coronavirus COVID-19 funds to Western Cape employees. 15 May 2020.

“According to the latest information we have received from the Department of Employment and Labour, R1.8 billion of the Unemployment Insurance Fund Temporary Employee Relief Scheme (UIF TERS) funds have been disbursed to 615 188 employees in the Western Cape as of 10 May 2020. We are pleased to see that employees in the Western Cape are starting to receive much-needed financial support during the Covid-19 crisis. Ensuring that businesses in the province are able to access and receive the support made available through the financial relief packages put in place for Covid-19, such as UIF TERS, is critical to ensuring the resilience of our economy, and maintaining the livelihoods of those living in the Western Cape. And so, we encourage all businesses in the Western Cape to apply for the financial relief packages available, and we will work hard to assist them in this regard.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/endangered-species-15-may-2020-0000>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. UIF reaches out to domestic workers, farm labourers.

2020 May 15 SA News

“The Department of Employment and Labour has begun efforts to reach domestic workers and farm labourers to enable them to benefit from the COVID-19 relief scheme. The scheme is part of a basket of government-wide services aimed at ensuring that the worst effects of the Coronavirus pandemic are mitigated. The Department's relief fund has already paid out billions of rands to workers who may not have received a salary as a result of the lockdown.

In a statement, Employment and Labour Minister, Thulas Nxesi, said: “Society is judged by how it tries to take care of the most vulnerable in its midst. This is why government in general and the Department of Employment and Labour in particular, are doing everything in their power to shield the most vulnerable from the worst of the pandemic.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/uif-reaches-out-domestic-workers-farm-labourers>

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ENERGY AND MINING

Government Gazette

Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002

Directions issued by Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy in terms of Regulation 4(10) of the Regulations made under section 27(2): Measures to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in order provide guidance on the implementation of provisions of the Regulations relating to permitted goods and services. The purpose of these Directions is to

2.1 provide for the continuous supply of energy and petroleum products to society provided for in regulation 29 of the Regulations; and

2.2 allow maintenance and construction work for energy projects to resume under strict safety, hygiene, sanitisation and social distancing protocols.

GN542 GG 43331 p3 15May2020

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43331_15-5_MinResEnergy.pdf

Media Releases

Department of Energy, Mineral Resources and Energy gazettes directions on energy and petroleum products during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 15 May 2020.

“The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe (MP) has today, in terms of regulation 4(10) of the Regulations published in Government Gazette No. 43331, Government Notice No. R480 of 29 April 2020, made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), issued the directions set out in the Schedule hereto in order provide guidance on the implementation of provisions of the Regulations relating to permitted goods and services. The purpose of these directions is to provide for the continuous supply of energy and petroleum products to society as provided for in regulation 29 of the regulations; and to allow maintenance and construction work for energy projects to resume under strict safety, hygiene, sanitisation and social distancing protocols.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mineral-resources-and-energy-gazettes-directions-energy-and-petroleum-products-during>

Department of Mineral Resources. Minister Gwede Mantashe meets with Premier Stanley Mathabatha and Impala Platinum on issues affecting mining industry, 17 May. 17 May 2020.

“The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe (MP) will convene an urgent meeting meeting with the Limpopo Provincial Government, led by Premier, Mr Stanley Mathabatha and Impala Platinum Group Chief Executive Officer, Mr Nico Muller. The meeting is convened to engage on issues directly affecting the mining industry, in so far as it relates to the Limpopo Province, following a confirmation of mineworkers who were screened and tested for Covid-19 and were found to be positive.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-gwede-mantashe-meets-premier-stanley-mathabatha-and-impala-platinum-issues>

The Presidency. Deputy President David Mabuza convenes high-level meeting of the Eskom Task Team, 15 May. 15 May 2020.

“Deputy President David Mabuza will convene and chair a virtual Eskom Task Team Meeting amid planned revised risk-adjusted lockdown. Among other issues of discussion, the meeting will look into the proposal on management and recovery of Municipal debt to Eskom and receive an update on the Eskom restructuring plan and procurement of additional capacity over the coming months. The Eskom Task Team was established to provide political leadership support to ensure that Eskom is able to meet its obligation of providing electricity, overseeing the development and implementation of a long term financing model to deal with debt and liquidity challenges; and ensuring that Eskom implements a credible national maintenance programme among others.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-president-david%2%A0mabuza-convenes-high-level-meeting-eskom-task-team-15-may%2%A0-15-may>

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FINANCIAL LAW

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. SARS staff donate R711 000 to Solidarity Fund.

2020 May 15 SA News

“Over 400 employees of the South African Revenue Service (SARS) have donated part of their salaries to the Solidary Fund as part of efforts to fight COVID-19. A total 451 SARS employees donated R711 000 towards the Solidarity Fund in April. “The South African Revenue Service is proud to announce an initiative by its employees to collect money in support of those in need due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.” In a statement on Thursday, SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter thanked employees for stepping up to help ease the plight of millions of citizens.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sars-staff-donate-r711-000-solidarity-fund>

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HOUSING / HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Media Release

Western Cape Human Settlements. MEC Tertuis Simmers on removal of deadline to move to new house or business. 15 May 2020.

"I'm pleased to note that the National Government has made an about-turn and removed the 7 June deadline for citizens to move to their new homes. I also welcome the opportunity that businesses now have, to move to new premises, should they require to do so. It is further noteworthy that "movement necessitated due to domestic violence," has also been included. The new Gazetted regulations as signed into law on 14 May, by the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, means that the directives as issued on 7 May 2020, are repealed. It is critical to note that this is still a once-off movement of persons and goods, "to facilitate the movement of persons and goods within and across provincial, metropolitan or district boundaries during the period of Alert level 4."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-tertuis-simmers-removal-deadline-move-new-house-or-business-15-may-2020-0000>

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LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS

Case

Khosa and Others v Minister of Defence and Military Veterans and Others (21512/2020) [2020] ZAGPPHC 147 (15 May 2020).

<http://www.saflii.org/za/cases/ZAGPPHC/2020/147.pdf>

Media Comment

Mabuza, Ernest. Court rules in favour of Collins Khosa family & declares all have right to life.

2020 May 15 TimesLive

"The high court in Pretoria on Friday declared that all people in SA are entitled to a number of rights which cannot be suspended, even during the Covid-19 state of disaster. These include the right to life, the right not to be tortured in any way and the right not to be treated or punished in an inhumane and cruel way.

The court made these orders in an application brought by the family of Collins Khosa, the 41-year-old man who died after he was allegedly beaten by soldiers and metro police outside his home in Alexandra on April 10.

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-05-15-court-rules-in-favour-of-collins-khosa-family-declares-all-have-right-to-life/>

Mitchley, Alex. Court orders SANDF to suspend members present when Collins Khosa was beaten to death, pending probe.

2020 May 15 News24

"The Gauteng High Court in Pretoria has ruled in favour the family of Collins Khosa in their urgent application."

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/just-in-court-orders-sandf-to-suspend-members-present-when-collins-khosa-was-beaten-to-death-pending-probe-20200515>

Cele, Sthembile [et al.] Mkhize defends lockdown rules as scientists say they are being sidelined.

2020 May 17 TimesLive

"Scientists, business and labour have delivered a stark warning to the government to fast-track the easing of lockdown restrictions, saying they are having little or no effect on stemming infections - but are killing the economy.

Some members of the ministerial advisory committee (MAC), the body headed by professor Salim Abdool Karim that advises the government on its response to the pandemic, have supported their colleague Dr Glenda Gray, who said yesterday that the lockdown has no basis in science and should be called off.... Gray, chair of the South African Medical Research Council, said the strategy "is not based in science and is completely unmeasured" in remarks to News24."

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/sunday-times/news/2020-05-17-mkhize-defends-lockdown-rules-as-scientists-say-they-are-being-sidelined/>

Maughan, Karyn. Advocate refuses to say sorry: Acting Judge to step down after lashing government.

2020 May 18 Business Day

"Benson says her criticism of the government's shutdown regulations is not unique and argues that current and former ministers, judges and other senior advocates have raised serious questions about their legality and rationality.

According to Benson, "the current lockdown has caused great angst for individuals such as myself, in our personal lives and beyond."

<https://www.pressreader.com/south-africa/business-day/20200518/281595242722554>

Sakeliga heads to High Court over Covid-19 lockdown business regulations.

2020 May 17 IOL

“The case involves the unlawfulness of permits and other government licensing requirements for businesses,” Sakeliga CEO Piet le Roux said in a statement. Sakeliga was asking the High Court to set aside a range of licensing requirements implemented under the state of disaster regulations and to protect businesses, non-profit organisations (NPOs), and employees against unlawful obstruction and arrest, he said.”

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/sakeliga-heads-to-high-court-over-covid-19-lockdown-business-regulations-48043751>

Van Schalkwyk, Rex. Lockdown, tyranny, and the rule of law in South Africa.

2020 May 13 BizCommunity

“House arrest is a recognised form of punishment for a convicted criminal. The punishment can, however, only legitimately be imposed upon an individual who has had the benefit of a fair trial. What then of the house arrest to which the entire population has been subjected for the past several weeks? The answer, of course, is that it is done for a legitimate purpose. To establish this, the reasons must be examined to determine their legitimacy, failing which the lockdown remains illegitimate, and therefore tyrannical. What the law will not tolerate is the whimsical or capricious use of power to undermine the liberty of the citizen, or merely to flex the collective muscle of the executive, who are, under the leadership of the president, responsible for the decisions taken.”

<https://www.biznews.com/thought-leaders/2020/05/13/covid-19-lockdown-unlawful-van-schalkwyk>

Media Release

The Presidency. Presidency on commitment by Nedlac to soonest migration to Coronavirus COVID-19 level 3 lockdown. 15 May 2020.

“Constituencies of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) are working sectorally and collectively to achieve the country’s earliest possible migration to Level 3 of the national lockdown. Government, labour, business and the community sector are undertaking detailed work to ensure that lives will be saved and livelihoods will be protected as the economy is progressively unlocked and society adapts to the reality of economic activity with COVID-19 as an ever-present danger. President Ramaphosa co-chaired a virtual meeting today, Friday, 15 May 2020, of the NEDLAC constituencies to assess preparations for the step-down from Level 4 of the national lockdown. Today’s meeting was the first in a series of consultations led by the President between government and social partners as well as more specific sectors of civil society, on the migration from Level 4 to Level 3 of the lockdown.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-commitment-nedlac-soonest-migration-coronavirus-covid-19-level-3-lockdown-15-may>

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MEDICAL LAW

Media Comment

'Greater crisis' looms: 38 doctors plea for non-Covid health care resources: share Covid-19 budget among all patients, medical professionals urge.

“We write to you as government employed medical doctors working on the front-line in our fight against Covid-19. We are deeply concerned that in our approach to manage one health care pandemic we are inadvertently causing a much greater health care crisis in SA. We are especially concerned that our fight against Covid-19 is fuelled by fear and that there is an oversight in the non-Covid health care needs of our country.”

<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-05-18-in-full-greater-crisis-looms-38-doctors-plea-for-non-covid-health-care-resources/>

Media Release

North West Health. MEC Madoda Sambatha welcomes Cuban doctors to support efforts to curb Coronavirus COVID-19 spread, 16 May. 15 May 2020.

“As part of the government multifaceted approach and effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, the North West Health MEC Madoda Sambatha will tomorrow, Saturday, 16 May be joined by other dignitaries and executive managers of the Department to welcome a contingent of Cuban doctors. The Cuban government in solidarity with the South African Government released its medical brigade to help flatten the curve. The deployment of the medical brigade including family physicians, epidemiologists, biologists and others will be considered after they complete their quarantine period.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-madoda-sambatha-welcomes-cuban-doctors-support-efforts- curb-coronavirus-covid-19-spread>

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PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Parliamentary Meeting

Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services

Minutes of meeting held in a virtual format with the Office of Chief Justice and the Information Regulator to discuss their Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans and Budgets for 2020/21.

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SAFETY AND SECURITY

Media Release

Western Cape Office of the Premier. MEC Albert Fritz on Western Cape Safety Plan officers support to SAPS in Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 15 May 2020.

“Between 4 May and 10 May 2020, the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) law enforcement officers:

- Attended to 233 COVID-19 related complaints;
- Participated in 44 roadblocks;
- Stopped and Searched 554 persons;
- Searched 24 303 vehicles;
- Participated in 29 joint operations;
- Issued 1751 notices including section 341, 56 and traffic notices; and
- Arrested 3 persons.

Minister Fritz said, “I commend the 500 deployed law enforcement officers who are providing continuous support to the joint command of SAPS and SANDF.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/mec-albert-fritz-western-cape-safety-plan-officers-support-saps-coronavirus-covid-19>

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SOCIAL SECURITY

Media Releases

Department of Social Development. Minister Lindiwe Zulu responds to allegations of attempts to prohibit the distribution of food parcels by civil society organisations during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown. 15 May 2020.

“The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, has noted with grave concern the false allegations in the media that the Department intends to prohibit the distribution of food parcels and cooked food to households and communities that are most in need of humanitarian relief. The Non-Profit Organisations Act, which the Department of Social Development is a custodian of, states that we ensure access to food security for the poor - especially during this critical time, “We are grateful to the private sector, aid agencies and civil society organisations for their generous donations of food to those most in need during this difficult time,” said Minister Lindiwe Zulu.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-lindiwe-zulu-responds-allegations-attempts-prohibit-distribution-food-parcels>

Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sport. Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sports calls youth to enter #Slam4urLife competition. 15 May 2020.

“Co-ordinated by the Western Cape Government Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports Department, in partnership with Community Chest, FunDza Literacy Trust and Assitej South Africa, the #Slam4urLife competition calls on young people to respond creatively to life under COVID-19. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent national lockdown, millions of young South Africans are at home confronting the abrupt changes to their daily routines, and wrestling too with the stress of how this crisis impacts their lives, and their future hopes and dreams. Many young people have already taken to social media to express their feelings from short poems on Twitter about the uncertain future to TikToks about life in lockdown.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/western-cape-cultural-affairs-and-sports-calls-youth-enter-slam4urlife-competition-15-may>

Western Cape Office of the Premier. Premier Alan Winde: Western Cape’s Hotspot Plan amid Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. 15 May 2020.

“I want to be very clear on this point: a job is not just a nice-to-have. It is for many people the difference between putting food on the table, and starving. Job losses cannot simply be dismissed as a necessary outcome for the greater good. Job losses mean malnutrition, starvation, increases in crime and, in the long term, premature death. And the people who suffer the most are not the middle-class. It’s the poor and vulnerable communities in our society that will bear the brunt. A responsible, caring government must think about these lives too. Our first initial projections, based on research being conducted by our Department of Economic Development and Tourism, indicate that over

200 000 jobs are going to be lost in the Western Cape alone due to the lockdown and “Alert Level 4” restrictions, even with the gradual lifting of restrictions over time. The situation will be even worse if we stay on Alert Level 4, and businesses are forced to close.”

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/premier-alan-winde-western-cape%E2%80%99s-hotspot-plan-amid-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-15-may>

Media Statements

SA Government News Agency. Millions apply for R350 social relief grant.

2020 May 15 SA News

“More than 3.5 million people have applied for the new special COVID-19 Social Relief of Distress (SRD) Grant - within three days of the system going live. “The special COVID-19 SRD Grant is intended to mitigate the undue hardships faced by individuals and families through this difficult time. We are pleased with the intake so far and we urge all eligible individuals to apply on time,” Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu said on Thursday. The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) started taking nationwide applications for the grant on Monday.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/millions-apply-r350-social-relief-grant>

SA Government News Agency. Social Development publishes directives for food donations.

2020 May 15 SA News

“The Department of Social Development (DSD) has drafted directives on the coordination of food donations and other humanitarian relief efforts as the country deals with the COVID-19 pandemic. “The objectives of the directives is to ensure that the distribution of food parcels is done in a dignified manner that does not expose people to possible infection,” Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu said on Friday. The Minister noted the false allegations in the media that the DSD intends to prohibit the distribution of food parcels and cooked food to households and communities that are most in need of humanitarian relief. “To comply with social distancing guidelines, the department has changed its modus operandi of serving cooked food at community centres to the door-to-door delivery or knock-and-drop system of pre-packed food to families.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/social-development-publishes-directives-food-donations>

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SPORT

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. Sports committee welcomes cancellation of Comrades Marathon.

2020 May 15 SA News

“The Select Committee on Education, Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture has welcomed the decision to cancel the 2020 edition of the Comrades Marathon, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee Chairperson, Elleck Nchabeleng, said given the latest figures of positive cases in the country, and that KwaZulu-Natal is among the four provinces recording the highest positive cases, the right decision was taken. “The committee welcomes the cancellation and believes it is in the interest of participants at heart. Any possible interventions and steps should be taken to ensure that the virus spread is contained. The urge to continue with the season among many sporting codes is understandable, but that should not be at the expense of the athletes,” Nchabeleng said.”

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sports-committee-welcomes-cancellation-comrades-marathon>

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TOBACCO

Media Comment

Van der Merwe, Marelise. Cigarette ban is 'failing', can create lasting illicit market – study.

2020 May 16 Fin24

“The ban on cigarette sales is failing in what it set out to do – and rather than stopping smokers from smoking, it could be setting up an illicit market for survival well beyond the coronavirus outbreak, a new study has found.

The study, by University of Cape Town researchers Corne van Walbeek, Samantha Filby and Kirsten van der Zee, is titled *Lighting up the illicit market: Smokers' responses to the cigarette sales ban in South Africa*, and is based on a survey among 16 000 respondents.... The survey found that 90% of respondents had bought cigarettes during the lockdown. Most strikingly, the researchers found that buying patterns had changed. Though smokers were overwhelmingly still buying cigarettes, many of them were not able to access their regular brand.”

<https://www.fin24.com/Economy/South-Africa/cigarette-ban-is-failing-can-create-lasting-illicit-market-study-20200516>

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TOURISM

Media Comment

ConCourt dismisses race-based law application.

2020 May 18 Legalbrief

The Constitutional Court has dismissed the urgent application by Solidarity and AfriForum to directly appeal the High Court decision to uphold the Tourism Department's stance to have B-BBEE as a requirement when allocating funds to businesses from the tourism Covid-19 relief fund. An **Eyewitness News** report says in the order, the court stated that **it was not in the interest of justice to hear the application urgently**. 'The Constitutional Court has considered the application for leave to appeal directly to the court on an urgent basis. It has concluded that the application should be dismissed as it is not in the interest of justice to hear the application at this stage as there are insufficient grounds raised for direct appeal to court on an urgent basis.' Solidarity and AfriForum had argued in the High Court that the disaster management regulations confine the Minister's power to give directions to matters relating to Covid-19 and do not include empowerment goals.

[Full Eyewitness News report](#)

Copy of court order available on request from alert@lexinfo.co.za

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Release

Department of Small Business Development. Small Business Development on Small Business Development and Black Business Council meeting. 15 May 2020.

"The BBC expressed its appreciation of the extra R2 billion to support SMMEs as announced by the State President but emphasized the need to allocate more funds to support the work of the Department in supporting SMMEs, more so when the economy is starting to re-open as majority of small businesses may not be able to re-open without the active support of government. Minister Ntshavheni implored the BBC to encourage their members and the SMMEs at large, to register on the national SMMEs portal <https://smmesa.gov.za/> as part of developing a comprehensive SMMEs portal for the country which will also strengthen government planning and guide critical resource allocation, the call which the BBC gladly accepted to support. The parties agreed that the covid-19 crisis has exposed the country's unsustainable reliance on imports in the supply of critical medical goods such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for medical personnel."

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/strengthen-working-relationship-15-may-2020-0000>

Media Statement

SA Government News Agency. SA participates in G20 trade ministerial meeting.

2020 May 15 SA News

"South Africa has backed a package of trade and investment measures to address the COVID-19 challenges faced across the world. The measures have been adopted by Ministers from the Group of 20 (G20) countries. These measures include the need to expand productive capacity of essential goods and services, including pharmaceuticals, medical and other health-related products as well as agricultural products. Speaking at the virtual meeting attended by G20 Trade Ministers, South Africa's Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) Minister Ebrahim Patel said the pandemic has also exposed vulnerabilities in global supply."

<https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-participates-g20-trade-ministerial-meeting>

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