

SOUTH AFRICA UNDER LOCKDOWN

7 APRIL 2020

MOVING TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE



**NEWS
FLASH!**

DEAR MEMBER

As South Africa is coming to terms with the national lockdown to stop the spread of the coronavirus and to protect our nation against the harmful health impact of this global disaster, the Transport Sector Retirement Fund (TSRF) is painfully aware of the hardships that our country is facing. It is for the reason, that the Fund is carefully monitoring news updates to share with you any important and useful information which may be of assistance during this time, and beyond the lockdown period.

"It is abundantly clear that our country is not only facing a deep healthcare crisis, but is also experiencing many debilitating socio-economic challenges. At times like these, we need to all pull together to move our country and its people forward. Don't throw in the towel. Let us do everything in our power to hold on and push ahead," says the TSRF's Principal Officer, **Joe Letswalo**.

FIND HELP HERE

COVID-19 lockdown regulations and important online Coronavirus news updates:



www.gov.za and www.sacoronavirus.co.za

Apply for your business to provide essential goods and services:



www.bizportal.gov.za

Apply for relief to pay staff salaries during lockdown:



Temporary Employee/Employer Relief Scheme (TERS) - If your business had to close down during lockdown, and you are registered with UIF and make monthly contributions, then employers can apply for relief in terms of the National Disaster Benefit from the Department of Employment and Labour. Do so here:

www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_documents/corona-uif.pdf



UIF will be paid out to workers in distressed companies. The amounts will be a percentage of an employee's salary in accordance with a legislated sliding scale. Companies struggling to pay salaries due to COVID-19 can report this by sending an **email** to: Covid19ters@labour.gov.za

Business that are negatively affected, directly or indirectly, due to the coronavirus, can apply for relief here:



Two main Government Schemes are available to assist businesses, namely The Debt Relief Finance Scheme and the Growth Resilience Facility. Detailed information is available on www.seda.org.za. Seda will provide assistance to micro-enterprises. Send an **email** to: growthfund@seda.org.za or debtreliet@seda.org.za



For both these debt relief facilities, you first have to register for assistance on the National SMME Database: <https://smmesa.gov.za>



Complete the online application forms available on www.dsbd.gov.za; www.sefa.org.za and www.seda.org.za or contact **0860 663 7867** or **email**: info@dsbd.gov.za / info@mybindu.org.za

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Tax-relief available to businesses during COVID-19:



SARS Employment Tax Incentive (ETI) Programme - Companies can claim back up to R1500 per month per employee who earn less than R6 500 (if younger than 30), and R500 for those 30 years and older.



PAYE & Provisional Tax Deferral – Compliant small and medium businesses (with an annual turnover of less than R50-million) can **apply to delay payment** of employees' tax liability (20% of PAYE) for the period 1 April – 31 July 2020; and a deferral of provisional tax liability for the same period.



Find detailed information on www.sars.gov.za under the COVID-19 updates.

Financial assistance offered by SA's major banks:



Debt holidays – Most major banks in South Africa are offering clients in good standing debt repayment holidays (of up to three months) on various loans and mortgages if they are impacted by the Covid-19 lockdown. Business and corporate clients are advised to directly apply for relief from their individual banks.



First check your Credit Life Insurance – Before taking a debt holiday, first find out from your bank if your instalments are covered by credit insurance.



If you took on any debts after August 2017, whether it is a home loan, credit card or other loan, you should be **covered by your compulsory credit life insurance for up to 12 months** (or until you are able to earn an income again) if you have become unemployed, unable to earn your income, or put on unpaid leave.



OTHER HELPFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

- Coronavirus Hotline: **0800 029 999**
- Coronavirus Whatsapp: **060 012 3456**
- National Institute for Communicable Diseases: **0800 029 999**
- Presidential Hotline: **17737**
- Reporting Undue Price Increases: **0800 141 880**
- Supporting SMMEs in Distress: **0860 663 7867**
- National Crisis Line: **086 132 2322**
- National Human Trafficking Helpline: **0800 222 777**
- Department of Trade and Industry: **080 000 6543**
- Department of Home Affairs: **0800 601 190**
- COVID-19 Counselling: **0800 786 786** (Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm)



TSRF STANDS WITH YOU.

TOGETHER WE WILL OVERCOME.

