

COVID-19

ENSURING BUSINESS CONTINUITY DURING LOCKDOWN

2 April 2020

COVID-19 Impacts business on many levels.

Owners need to be aware of what support is available and what they can do to minimize the chance of business failure during lockdown.

Some activities fall under Essential Services. Others may need to pivot to ensure income streams are maintained.

- Check if you are an essential service by calling 0860 663 7867 or email info@dsbd.gov.za
- Go to www.bizportal.gov.za to obtain a certificate that will allow you to operate.
- Give copies of the certificate along with a letter, on your letterhead, to all staff who must move anywhere. The letter must include ID numbers and names. All personnel to carry their ID documents.

Government will provide a tax subsidy of up to R500 per month for the next four months for those private sector employees earning below R6 500 under the Employment Tax Incentive. The Employment Tax Incentives Act, 2013 encourages the employment of young workers and provides relief to qualifying employers by means of a reduction of monthly employees' tax.

Employers unable to pay their staff during lockdown – employees to claim from UIF

- The department of labour has made provision for employees of employers unable to pay their employees during lockdown to claim UIF. There will however be a delay in receiving benefits due to the overwhelming requests that will be received and provision for delays will need to be made.
- Short time claims may also be made

Illness benefits – claim from UIF

- This portion corresponds to cases where companies decide that a contributor must be self-quarantined for 14 days and/or in special circumstances more than 14 days, the contributor will be covered under Part C of the Unemployment Insurance Act, as amended (Illness benefits).

From the Department of Small Business Development

- Business Growth and Resilience Facility – medical production
- SMME Relief Finance Scheme – General support for six months.
- SEFA Debt restructuring Facility – Prove direct link to obtain a six month payment holiday.
- Stringent rules for compliance – see continuity manual for details

Register on www.smmesa.gov.za

- Complete the online application form
- Upload supporting documents.
- Read the requirements carefully as all need to be met.

- The industrial Development corporation is considering support for several sectors impacted by the lockdown and resultant economic decline.
- These are essentially for large industry in Agriculture, Mining and Automotive production.
- Food security is mentioned so agricultural ventures might explore this in more detail.

- For the production of various medical items needed to meet the challenge
- Loans of up to R10m at 0% for 12 months and 2.5% thereafter
- Requires existing relationships with retail and Purchase orders.

- www.businesspartners.co.za – managing the Motsepe foundation R1Bn – Loans
- www.solidarityfund.co.za

- South African Banks – deferred debt and other initiatives differs across institutions
- Any medical related or educational site is now rated at zero data.
- Tushiyah coaching, mentoring and business advisory services will continue via various communication systems

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