

COVID-19

Information for Business Owners

23 March 2020



Protection for employees

A proposal for a special dispensation for companies in distress because of Covid-19 has been put forward.

This will include wage payments for employees through the Temporary Employee Relief Scheme to help companies pay employees during this period and avoid retrenchment.

Employees who fall ill due to exposure in the workplace will be paid through the Compensation Fund, Ramaphosa said.

He said government would provide tax subsidies of up to R500 a month for the next four months to private sector employees earning less than R6 500. This would assist over four million employees, he said.

An economic cushion

Ramaphosa reiterated the dire impact Covid-19 could have on the economy, which could cause businesses to close and many to lose their jobs.

He announced economic plans to cushion South Africa against the impact of the virus, including a solidarity fund geared at support for those whose lives have been disrupted and to combat the virus.

Anyone can start contributing to the fund at www.solidarityfund.co.za.

A safety net for people in the informal sector whose businesses will suffer because of the lockdown has also been developed, and more details will be announced.

Further, "to alleviate congestion at payment points, old-age pensions and disability grants will be available for collection from 30 and 31 March 2020, while other categories of grants will be available for collection from 1 April 2020", Ramaphosa said.

ATMs, retail point of sale devices, post offices and cash pay points will remain open.

Reference:

<https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/coronavirus-national-lockdown-101-what-you-need-to-know-20200324>

SMALL BUSINESS DEBT RELIEF FUND

<http://www.smmesa.gov.za/>