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Financial Support Schemes during COVID-19

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2020

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INTRODUCTION

The President addressed the nation on COVID-19 on 15 March, declaring a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act. In his second address, the President announced a national lockdown for 21 days and outlined more stringent interventions in a comprehensive plan to limit transmission of the virus and to mitigate its economic and social impact. After the President declared a state of national disaster to the COVID-19 pandemic, various government departments and agencies have put measures in place to mitigate the severity of the impact on businesses. The private institutions have also put together financial relief programmes in order to assist the businesses and individuals that might be affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this booklet is therefore to collate information that could assist the SMMEs that operate within the agricultural sector. However, the information contained here might not only be specific to the agricultural sector, but could also be applicable to businesses operating in other sectors.

NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT FUND

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) in partnership with the NEF have made an amount of R200 million available under the COVID-19 Black Business Fund. It aims to assist black businesses that are geared at supporting the manufacture of various medical supplies and the production of food.

Products prioritised by the fund

- Disposable plastic gloves and face masks
- Dispensers (water, sanitisers and soap)
- Maize meal
- PCR test kits for coronavirus
- Protective respirators
- Flour disinfectants and alcohol-based wipes
- Toilet paper
- Yeast
- Medical protective clothing and overshoes
- Steel beds for hospitals and clinics
- Samp
- Hospital linen and clothing
- Mattresses and / or sponge
- Beans
- Protective goggles and protective hoods / face shields
- Sterile and unsterile
- Cooking oil
- Plastic moulding and bottling / packing
- Milk
- Fish and canned food
- Hand sanitisers and soaps
- Fruits: Oranges, Naartjies, Lemons (Vit. C)
- Margarine and bread spread
- Chicken
- Detergents / cleaning products
- Disposable aprons and cups

- Vegetables: yellow veggies, potatoes / sweet potatoes, cabbages, spinach, morogo, tomatoes, beetroot and corn
- Eggs
- Baby food
- Water

Conditions of the fund

- Limited to R10 million per applicant for working capital, machinery and equipment;
- Up to 12 months payment moratorium at 0% fixed interest rate;
- After 12 months a fixed interest rate of 2,5% will apply;
- Maximum term is 60 months, including moratorium, and
- First drawdown must occur within 1 month from approval date.

Funding criteria

- Be a registered legal entity in South Africa in terms of the Companies Act, 2008 (as amended); the Close Corporations Act, 1984 or the Co-operatives Act, 2005.
- Be a taxpayer in good standing with a valid tax clearance certificate at assessment as well as before the loan is disbursed.
- Be a current and registered supplier with retailers and other institutions in good standing or have a purchase order/ contract/ letter of intent.
- Require working capital or funds to purchase machinery and equipment.
- The fund WILL NOT service any pre-existing debt or help settle monies owed.
- Have greater than fifty percent (>50%) Black shareholding and management control
- Must be directly involved in the day-to-day running of the operation and must have requisite expertise in the sector. Owned by black South Africans as defined by the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Act.
- In line with the NEF's transformation mandate, preference will be given to applications that demonstrate meaningful black women ownership, management and control.
- Have a project with a minimum requirement of R500 000 in working capital, machinery and equipment.
- Must result in retaining or increasing direct jobs.
- Submission of all relevant documents for commercially viable applications.

Required documentation

- Declaration on BEE status and size of business.
- NEF application form (accessible on NEF website: www.nefcorp.co.za).
- Summary of production in the last 3 months.
- Copy of the historical financial statements (up to 3 years if available).
- Signed copy of the contract, purchase order or letter of intent from the applicant's client/s.
- Financial forecast for the duration of the contract, order, or letter of intent. The forecast should include income statement, cash flow statement and balance sheet for the duration of the funding.
- Additional information that would be necessary to enhance the application may be requested by the NEF as and when deemed necessary.

Contact details

Website: visit www.nefcorp.co.za

E-mail: covidfund@nefcorp.co.za

Tel: 011 305-8080

DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR

The Department of Employment and Labour has different UIF relief options available. However, this document consists of two relief options which are more applicable and are discussed below as follows:

UIF 'Reduced working time' option

The 'reduced working time' was originally intended for employees who have to work short time. However, although it is not clearly stated, this scheme is also made available to employees that are on temporary lay-off without pay during the Covid-19 crisis. In order to claim for this scheme, the documents stipulated below should be submitted.

Required documentation

- UI 19 and UI 2.7 (completed by employer)
- UI 2.1 (application form)
- UI 2.8 (bank form completed by bank)
- Letter from employer confirming reduced work time (or lay-off) is due to the Coronavirus
- Copy of ID document

Criteria

- The claim is subject to the employee having enough credits.
- The claim is by the employee (with the assistance of the employer).
- The employee has to obtain a UI-19 form and then get a bank authorisation in respect of the account into which the benefit is to be paid, which will be a challenge, especially during the lock-down.
- Submission can be made online to the relevant processing center (See list of processing centers at the end of UIF Easy-Aid Guide available at the link below).
- The benefit will be calculated in terms of the income replacement rate sliding scale of 38 % (for high earners) up to 60 % (for low earners) as provided in the Unemployment Insurance Act, subject to the maximum threshold as determined from time to time.
- It is possible that lower earning employees may get out less than the minimum wage under this dispensation.
- Payment is made by the UIF directly into the employee's bank account.
- Subject to available credits the employee can (theoretically) receive this benefit for up to 12 months.

Covid-19 temporary employee/employer relief scheme (C19 TERS)

This scheme is intended to provide emergency relief to enable employers to pay employees who are temporarily laid off due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Scheme specifications

- It is a separate benefit scheme (separate from normal UIF benefits with its own set of forms and requirements) which cannot be claimed at the same time as the UIF 'reduced working time' benefit.
- It applies where the company has closed its operations as a direct result of Covid-19 (at this stage this option does not seem to apply if the company doesn't close entirely, but lays off only some of its employees)
- Claims are not dependent on an employee having any UIF credits and will be entitled to benefits irrespective of how long they have contributed.
- The company (rather than the employee) submits a claim for UIF and the company then pays over the money to employees.

- Online process: Send blank email to Covid19ters@labour.gov.za and you receive an automated response with the relevant forms and other requirements.
- The UIF will be prepared to “top up” any payment made by the employer (by prior arrangement with the UIF).
- The benefit will be calculated in terms of the income replacement rate sliding scale of 38 % (for high earners) up to 60 % (for low earners) as provided in the Unemployment Insurance Act, subject to the maximum threshold which is currently R17712. Despite conflicting reports, our understanding is that the maximum benefit for a high earner would be 38 % of R17 712 a month, which amounts to about R6 730 a month.
- For the duration of the shutdown or a maximum period of three months, the benefit will be not less than the minimum wage (referred to as a ‘flat rate’ of R3500 per month). After the expiry of this 3-month period, the employee might receive less than the minimum wage based on the above sliding scale.
- There is supposed to be a faster turnaround time with processing (According to the agreement to be signed with the UIF the benefit should be paid out to the company within 30 days of a valid submission).
- The company has to enter into a written agreement with the UIF if it has 10 or more employees (updated in the latest “COVID 19 TERS EASY AID”).
- The company has to fulfil a number of administrative requirements, e.g. proof of payroll for the last three months.
- The company has to open a dedicated UIF bank account, or clear an existing account, so that Covid-19 benefits can be tracked.

Required documentation

- UI 19 and UI 2.7 (completed by employer)
- UI 2.1 (application form)
- UI 2.8 (bank form completed by bank)
- Letter from employer confirming reduced work time (or lay-off) is due to the Coronavirus
- Copy of ID document

Contact details

Website: www.labour.gov.za

Tel: 012 337 1997.

DEPARTMENT OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Minister for Small Business Development (SBD), Ms Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, announced that Small businesses struggling in the wake of Covid-19 can apply for government assistance as of 24 March 2020. Businesses must be 100% owned by South African citizens, should employ at least 70% SA nationals, must be registered with the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and must be tax-compliant. To access the fund, businesses are required to register on the SMME South Africa platform. Only SMMEs that are registered on the database will be considered for this temporary relief. The financial support schemes set out by SBD as intervention measures to support SMMEs affected by the Covid-19 disaster are stipulated below as follows:

Debt relief finance scheme

Target group

This is a scheme focussed on providing relief to businesses that are negatively affected (directly/indirectly) by the effects on the Coronavirus pandemic.

Qualifying criteria

- A business must be registered with the CIPC by at least February 2020.
- The company must be owned by a South African.
- Employees must be 70% South African.
- Priority will be given to businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities.
- The business must be compliant with SARS and UIF.
- Business must be registered with the national SMME database <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- Proof of the negative effects of COVID-19 pandemic.
- Complete application online.
- Company statutory documents.
- FICA documents (municipal account, letter from a Traditional Authority).
- Certified ID copies of directors.
- Three month bank statement.
- Latest annual financial statements or latest management accounts not older than three months from the application date- where applicable.
- Copy of lease agreement or proof of ownership if applying for rental relief.
- If applying for payroll relief, details of employees- as registered with UIF and including banking details- will be required as payroll payments will be made directly to employees.
- SMME employers who are not compliant with UIF must register before applying for relief.
- Facility statements for other funders.
- Detailed breakdown on application of funds including salaries, rent, etc.

Application process

- Register on <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- Complete online application form
- Upload required supporting documents

Contact details and enquiries

Tel: 0860 663 7867

Email: info@dsbd.gov.za or info@mybindu.org.za

Business growth/resilience facility

Target group

Businesses geared to take advantage of supply opportunities resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic or shortage of goods on the local market.

Qualifying criteria

- A business must be registered with the CIPC by at least February 2020.
- The company must be owned by a South African.
- Employees must be 70% South African.
- Priority will be given to businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities.
- The business must be compliant with SARS and UIF.
- Business must be registered with the National SMME Database <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- For non-compliant micro businesses, SEDA will assist them to comply and request for assistance must be sent to: growthfund@seda.org.za
- Complete application online.
- Company statutory documents.
- FICA documents (municipal account, letter from a Traditional Authority).
- Certified ID copies of directors.
- Three month bank statements.
- Latest annual financial statements or latest management accounts not older than three months from the application date.
- Business profile.
- Six month cash flow projections- where applicable.
- Relevant industry certification- where applicable.
- Estimations for funding requested.

Application process

- Register on <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- Complete online application form
- Upload required supporting documents

Contact details and enquiries

Tel: 0860 663 7867

Email: info@dsbd.gov.za or info@mybindu.org.za

SMME payroll assistance

Target group

Targeted at employees of SMMEs (employers) that will not be able to claim from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF- owing to the employers not being registered with the fund.

Qualifying criteria

- A Business must be registered with the CIPC by at least February 2020.
- The company must be owned by a South African.
- Employees must be 70% South African.
- Priority will be given to businesses owned by women, youth and people with disabilities.
- Undertake to register with UIF (Registration will trigger disbursement).
- Business must be registered with the National SMME database <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- For non-compliant micro businesses, SEDA will assist them to comply and request

for assistance must be sent to: payrollassist@dsbd.gov.za

- Alternatively, register directly on <https://www.ufiling.co.za>
- Complete application online: www.dsbd.gov.za
- CIPC registration documents.
- Relevant industry certification- where applicable.
- FICA Documents (Municipal Account, letter from a Traditional Authority).
- Certified ID copies of directors.
- Three month bank statements.
- Three month payroll list with full employee's details.

Application process

- Register on <http://smmesa.gov.za>
- Complete Online Application Form
- Upload Required Supporting Documents

Contact details and enquiries

Tel: 0860 663 7867

Email: info@dsbd.gov.za or info@mybindu.org.za

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

FNB has announced a wave of relief measures to help its customers navigate financial commitments as Covid-19 continues to impact the livelihood of many individuals across the country. These measures will run from 1 April – 30 June 2020 and are aimed at providing relief to individual and business customers whose financial stability has been impacted by Covid-19.

The aim is to ensure that all customers can continue keeping their financial affairs in order through this difficult time. The bank believe that its ability to service customers through multiple market-leading digital channels has provided relative comfort to customers to continue managing their day-to-day-banking, investing, credit and insurance needs.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

For those customers that qualify, FNB said its Covid-19 interventions will be for all products and will be available for a period of three months, covering the following:

- Instalment cashflow relief, during which part or no instalments/repayments will be due for a specific period;
- A preferential interest rate will apply to the Covid-19 relief interventions given;
- No fees will be charged for any relief granted;
- Assistance with processing credit insurance claims, where possible;
- Individualised bridge facilities for those who need it.

Other services

- In April, individual and business customers on FNB Connect will also receive 1GB of free data to help them stay connected during the lockdown.
- The FNB group said “ it will also waiver Speedpoint device rentals and not charge a minimum fee for some merchants who are in good standing but operate in distressed industries”

NOTE

“Interest and fees will continue to accumulate on outstanding balances”

Contact details

Individuals and business customers can contact us via their usual digital and assisted banking channels to enquire about these services. For more information visit the following site:

https://www.fnb.co.za/downloads/pressOffice/2020/FNBMediaRelease_Covid19_30March2020_FINALforsocial.pdf

ABSA

Absa Group is rolling out an extensive relief scheme for eligible customers impacted by the coronavirus with its relief measures. This scheme, effective on Monday, 30 March 2020, is in line with the principles of an industry agreed approach <https://www.banking.org.za/news/banks-respond-to-covid-19/>.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

- Relief for consumer, business banking and wealth customers
- Bespoke solutions for corporate and business banking clients
- Additional administration fees waived
- To allow benefits to reach more customers, those who can pay are encouraged to continue payments
- Programme applies to all Absa markets, subject to legislation, regulations and conditions applicable in each country

Qualifying criteria

Eligible customers in need of short-term liquidity relief will qualify for the relief programme that applies to Absa's credit products. These relief measures apply to Absa's corporate, wealth, business bank, private bank and retail customers. Criteria will vary for business and individuals, but importantly, support to businesses is not limited to specific products. The bank will also consider bespoke solutions for businesses to assist them over this period, based on their unique requirements and operations.

NOTE

- Customers will not be charged administration fees for the payment relief.
- Interest will be capitalised.

Contact details

Absa will approach qualifying customers directly to discuss their payment relief options and trigger this, should they choose to opt in to this relief scheme. You do not need to contact Absa to arrange this relief. The following website could be visited for further information:

<https://www.absa.co.za/media-centre/press-statements/2020/covid-19-payment-relief-programme/>

NEDBANK

Nedbank has announced a number of measures to help individuals and businesses hit by the coronavirus but has not yet specified what this entails, or who qualifies. This support could include deferring payments (or part thereof) for a suitable period, extending existing loan periods or extending additional credit to manage short term cashflow shortfalls.

Contact details

Nedbank said its clients are encouraged to contact the bank. Small business clients can speak to their dedicated relationship banker if they need to restructure their debt or change their payment arrangements as a consequence of Covid-19.

STANDARD BANK

Standard Bank has announced a second wave of relief to help its customer base navigate financial commitments as Covid-19 continues to impact the livelihood of many individuals across the country.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

The bank's small enterprise clients with a turnover of less than R20 million were granted a three-month instalment relief on their business loan repayments. The latest instalment relief measure will further assist business owners who bank with Standard Bank in their personal and business capacity.

The three-month instalment relief will be available on 1 April 2020 until end June 2020. Customers need not contact the bank to initiate the offer, however, customers can continue to pay their accounts as usual should they not want to take up on the relief offer made by Standard Bank.

Business loan instalment relief

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Payment Scheme, which will provide loan instalment relief to your business for 90 days. This scheme will launch on the 1st of April 2020 and strives to support small and medium-sized business with a payment holiday for 90 days.

Qualifying criteria:

You are eligible for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Payment Scheme if:

- Your business is South African based, with a turnover of no more than R 20 million per year.
- Your Business Current account, Bizlaunch account and Business Lending accounts are paid up to date.
- Your business is in good standing.

Personal loan relief for SME owners

Small businesses who are among those who will be hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during a national lock-down. The bank understand that the pressures of meeting both personal financial commitments while also having to pay salaries and keep up to date with business financial commitments will be tough during this crisis. The bank is offering 90 day instalment relief to owners of small enterprises with a turnover of less than R20 million a year.

How will this instalment relief work?

The instalment relief will defer payments on credit cards, home loans, personal loans and vehicle loan payments held with us from 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020 for qualifying customers. Interest and fees will accrue over this time.

Qualifying criteria

You are eligible for the instalment relief if:

- You have a Standard Bank Business Current account

- You are the owner of a small business with a turnover under R20 million a year
- You have a Standard Bank credit card, home loan, personal loan and/or vehicle loan
- Your accounts are not in arrears as of 31 March 2020.

Exclusions

- Customers whose payments are in arrears as at 31 March 2020 are not eligible for this offer
- This offer excludes home loans held in a trust
- This offer excludes overdrafts

Other services

The banking sector has collectively decided to waive Saswitch fees during the lockdown. This means that a customer can use any ATM, including those offered by competing banks and only pay the usual fees charged.

Contact details

This offer will be automatically applied, however; should you wish to opt-out of the instalment relief pay your loan instalment or mail businessassist@standardbank.co.za or visit the following website: <https://www.standardbank.co.za/southafrica/business/covid19#covidDebtReliefTabs>

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COPORATION (IDC)

IDC is supporting South Africa's efforts to prepare for the impact COVID-19 will have on our people and economy. The impact on the economy cuts across all economic sectors and includes:

- Supply chain interruptions
- Access to raw materials – cost and quality
- Access to markets – perishable products lost in transit due to longer delivery periods
- Working capital disruptions – longer lead times
- Market loss – e.g. export markets constrained by logistics or replaced by production
- Surge of imports to address the spike in demand
- Underperforming budgets – impact of extended downtime
- Reduced Productivity – employees wellbeing: physical and psychological

Sector specific interventions

In addition to support for essential medical supplies, IDC is currently engaging its clients to determine specific sector interventions. For example:

Sector	Impact / Challenge	Interventions
Agriculture and Agro-Processing	Food security imperative. Poultry (chicken & eggs). Viability in the wake of demand disruptions (hospitality sector). Access to markets for seasonal products.	Regional trade opportunities. Access to trade finance facility. Working capital to meet short term demand.

Contact details

For more information the following website can be visited: <https://www.idc.co.za/2020/03/24/idc-interventions-in-response-to-covid-19/>.

SOUTH AFRICAN FUTURE TRUST (SAFT)

The South African Future Trust (SAFT) is an independent trust set up by Nicky and Jonathan Oppenheimer to extend direct financial support to the employees of South African Small, Medium, and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) who are at risk of losing their jobs or will suffer a loss of income because of COVID-19. SAFT has been funded with an initial contribution of R1 billion, with the aim of mitigating the immediate economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SCHEMES

SAFT employer relief fund

Its immediate purpose is to extend financial assistance to employees of South African Small, Medium and Micro-sized businesses (“SMMEs”) who are at risk of losing their jobs or will suffer a loss of income because of COVID-19.

Once the current crisis has passed, SAFT will have an ongoing role in accelerating economic growth within South Africa. Any further funds donated, and any loans repaid to SAFT will remain within this non-profit structure. They will be used to support initiatives with a focus on employment creation. SAFT will cease operations once all funds are disbursed, and no later than 31st December 2040.

Qualifying criteria

SAFT funds will be disbursed as concessionary loans to qualifying SMMEs. These loans will be interest-free over a 5-year term and will be administered by the Partner Banks on behalf of SAFT. Funds will be transferred directly to the employees of the qualifying SMMEs, and the employees themselves will carry no liability.

SMMEs who meet the following criteria will be eligible for support:

- Turnover below R25 million per annum
- Ability to demonstrate impact of COVID-19 on their operations now, or in the future
- Trading for at least 24 months
- Proof of payment to qualifying employees over the last 3 months
- Your business is in good standing with the Bank

Document requirements

You will have to provide the following documentation when applying for SAFT support:

- Company registration number (if you have a company or a close corporation), or
- The master’s reference number (if applying on behalf of a trust), or
- Identity number and business address (if you are a sole proprietor)
- Names and ID numbers of all directors / members / trustees / sole proprietor
- PAYE number (if applicable)
- Income tax number
- A list of the full-time employees to receive financial relief with the full names, ID number, bank account details and contact details.

Contact details

The scheme is currently available to clients of the four banks. SMMEs need to apply through their main bank. The following bank website can be visited:

- Standard bank: <https://www.standardbank.co.za/southafrica/business/covid-19/south-african-future-trust>
- Nedbank: <https://nedbank.co.za/content/nedbank/desktop/gt/en/business/covid-19-relief1/SAFT1.html>

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES (DAFF) AND DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM (DRDLR)

DAFF together with DRDLR invites applications from farmers/producers who are currently in production or are preparing for the winter crop to be supported through the DAFF/DRDLR COVID-19 Agricultural Disaster Support Fund for smallholder and communal farmers. The main objective of this support is to complete the current production cycle in an effort to ensure adequate food production and supply for the next six months while the country is managing the COVID-19 pandemic. The targeted beneficiaries are smallholder and communal producers with a turnover between R50 000 and R1 million per annum. 50% women, 40% youth and 6% people with disability will be targeted. The Funding is a grant and the voucher system will apply in partnership with distributors and manufactures of these inputs and the grant shall not exceed R50 000 per farming operation.

The specific targeted commodities to be supported are the following: (this is guided by the country's self-sufficiency index)

Commodity	Specific Support
Poultry	Day old chicks, Point of lay chickens, feed, medication and sawdust.
Vegetables	Seedlings, fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides and soil correction.
Fruits	Final spraying programmes for fruits that are ready for harvest.
Livestock	Feed and medication.
Winter Crops	Soil correction, fertilizer, seeds, herbicides and pesticides.

Minimum Requirements

- Smallholder farmers/producers must have a minimum turnover of R50 000 per annum but not exceeding R1 million. (Produce financial records or evidence if financial statement cannot be produced during this lockdown period).
- South African Certified ID copy; not older than 3 months
- Valid confirmation of land tenure/ownership (title deeds, Tribal Resolution, Permission to Occupy, minimum 5 years lease agreement).
- Already farming.
- Application form completed.
- Farming operation able to create permanent and/or seasonal jobs.
- In cases where the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Certificate is necessary for the operations, evidence of such to be provided.
- Proof of access to water for irrigation in case of fruits, vegetables and winter crops (i.e. water license/rights or proof that it had been applied for, borehole or other sources).
- Non-Government Employees

More detail on the selection criteria please visit the respective provincial Department of Agriculture OR national department of Rural Development and Land Reform or visit www.daff.gov.za

Black, Indian and Coloured owned farming businesses are encouraged to apply. The applications will be evaluated in line with the agreed selection criteria.

Application forms are available at the offices of both national and provincial Departments of Agriculture, as well as at the district and national offices of Rural Development and Land Reform. DAFF website: www.daff.gov.za. DRDLR website: www.drdlr.gov.za. **Completed application forms with the supporting documents must be submitted to the nearest Local, District or Provincial offices of Department of Agriculture or DRDLR offices.**

Disclaimer: Due to limited funds not all qualifying farmers will be funded.

Closing date for the application is 22 April 2020 by 16h00. Late applications will not be considered.

Contact details

Province	Official	Contact No	Email Address
DAFF	Mr. Mooketsa Ramasodi Mrs. Elder Mtshiza	083 230 3326 083 769 3076	MooketsaR@daff.gov.za ElderM@daff.gov.za
DRDLR	Mr. Terries Ndovhe Mr. Rirhandzu Shilote	060 564 0317	terries.ndovhe@drdlr.gov.za rirhandzu.shilote@drdlr.gov.za
Eastern Cape	Mr. Hamilton Ntsabo	082 301 9829	Hamilton.ntsabo@drdar.gov.za
Free State	Ms.Mangi Ramabenyan	082 907 0544	MangiR@fs.agric.za
Gauteng	Mr. Mpho Tlape	072 287 9278	Mpho.tlape@gauteng.gov.za
KwaZulu Natal	Mr. Jerry Mfusi	082 419 2881	Jerry.mfusi@kzndard.gov.za
Limpopo	Mr. Vusi Ndlosi	076 422 4282	ndlozic@agric.limpopo.gov.za
Mpumalanga	Mr. Mapholoba Letswalo	082 803 4714	maletswalo@mpg.gov.za
Northern Cape	Ms Nyakallo Moletsane	083 456 6153	Moletsane@ncpg.gov.za
North West	Mr. Malakia Mathlale	082 901 8231	malakiam@nwpg.gov.za
Western Cape	Dr. Mogale Sebopetsa	021 808 5103	mogales@elsenburg.com

Exclusions

It is vital to note that this is not comprehensive support scheme but an intervention package amid COVID-19. Therefore, the fund will not support the following:

- Mechanisation
- Infrastructure and
- Overhead costs.
- Farmers who are preparing for the 2020 summer production season will not be supported. The aim is to provide immediate to near-term support to smallholder farmers currently affected by COVID-19.
- Farmers who are currently receiving support through other programmes of government and its entities.
- No payment for debts.

THE LAND BANK AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT TO COVID-19

The Ministry of Agriculture has allocated R100 million to the Land Bank to assist farmers under financial distress - The following criteria will apply for the disbursement of the allocated funding to farmers:

Qualifying criteria

- Existing Land Bank Development Clients
- This refers to customers with an annual turnover ranging, but not exceeding R10 million; and
- Maximum allocation per client is R2 million.

Exclusions

- Distressed accounts due to other reasons, not Covid-19 related, are excluded from this support, but may apply using normal credit criteria;
- Over-indebted customers; and
- Non-Land Bank clients.

Key industries

- Vineyards, fruits and other;
- Grains and other field crops; and
- Livestock.

Contact Details and Enquiries

Farmers can visit the following website for further details: **www.landbank.co.za**

TAX RELIEF MEASURES ADMINISTERED BY SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICES (SARS)

Name of relief scheme	Target market	Type of relief	Application process
Covid -19 Tax relief	Tax-compliant SMEs <R50m and their employees eligible under the current Employment Tax Incentive (ETI) Act	Tax subsidy to employers of up to R500 pm for the next four months for employees earning below R6 500 under the Employment Tax Incentive (ETI)	More info available at www.treasury.gov.za or www.sars.gov.za
	Tax-compliant SMEs <R50m	Accelerated payment of employment tax incentive (ETI) reimbursement from twice a year to monthly to get cash into the hands of compliant employers asap.	
	Tax-compliant SMEs <R50m	SMEs will be allowed to delay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of their employees' tax liability over the next four months; and • a portion of their provisional corporate income tax payments without penalties or interest. 	

Existing Guidelines for Employment Tax Incentive (ETI)

Increasing the maximum amount of ETI claimable during the four-month period (1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020) for employees eligible under the current ETI Act from R1 000 to R1 500 in the first qualifying 12 months and from R500 to R1 000 in the second 12 qualifying months.

Employees earning below R6 500 will be allowed to claim ETI in the amount of R500 during this four month period. The qualifying ages are as follows:

- 18 to 29 who are no longer eligible for the ETI as the employer has claimed ETI in respect of those employees for 24 months; and
- 30 to 65 who are not eligible for the ETI due to their age.

This expansion will, however, only apply to employers who were registered with SARS as at 1 March 2020, and current compliance requirements for employers under sections 8 and 10(4) of the ETI Act will continue to apply.

“Essential goods” will be subject to a VAT exemption on importation during the Covid-19 pandemic.