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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

## SARS: UPDATED PAYE BRS FOR EMPLOYER RECONCILIATION

In this version the descriptions of the source codes for the donations to the COVID19 Solidarity Fund has been amended, as well as the ETI fields to cater for additional ETI that may claimed as part of the COVID19 Tax Relief.

Download the notice [here](#).

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## ITAC NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

Earlier this week, SAMED informed members of the fact that the ITAC offices had to be vacated due to a confirmed COVID-19 case and that the staff were working from home. In the notice issued by ITAC, Staff should return to the office and normal procedure on Monday, 22 June 2020.

Download the notice [here](#).

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BUSINESS FOR SA | COVID-19

## BUSINESS FOR SOUTH AFRICA COMMENTS ON UIF/TERS DELAYS AND SHORTCOMINGS

Business for South Africa (B4SA) has expressed its surprise at the narrative issued by the Minister of Employment and Labour (DEL), Thulas Nxesi, and the leadership of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) attributing the delays and shortcomings in the disbursement of Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) benefits to employers.

Both have stated in recent days that there are employers who have not distributed benefits to employees when these have been channelled through the employers and that many employers have failed to apply correctly for the benefit on behalf of employees.

We are perturbed at the suggestion that employers should carry the blame for employees not receiving their TERS benefits timeously when the administrative system has proven so grossly unreliable.

B4SA offered a wide range of expert technical assistance to the UIF at the outset of the TERS, some of which was eventually taken up. Most April payments were processed efficiently, though there are several hundred thousand still outstanding.

Having alleged that certain (unnamed) employers had not distributed the April benefit to employees, the DEL and UIF decided to change the system to make payments directly to employees.

Unfortunately:

- Applications opened only on 27 May – around payday for most monthly paid employees;
- The online application system is extremely user-unfriendly, and the UIF call centre operators are not adequately equipped to resolve many of the, often technical, queries that come from

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- o Instead of the new system ensuring that all workers would receive the TERS payment timeously, almost all who have been paid so far had to wait until mid-June for their May payments due, apparently, to breakdowns in UIF systems. Many more payments are still awaited.

The problems with the UIF system were magnified in a webinar held earlier in this week for B4SA members, where a large number of participants expressed their frustration in accessing the UI system, uploading claims and securing payments for employees. Over 500 B4SA members have also responded to a survey seeking their feedback on the UI system, the results of which will be forwarded to the UI Fund.

The pressure that employers have felt from employees due to the late payment of their TERS benefit was exacerbated by the Minister and the UIF Commissioner blaming employers for the delays which were the consequences of the fund's system breakdowns. We do not believe that this is fair.

B4SA remains committed to working co-operatively with the UIF Commissioner and his team to ensure that the June payments can be processed timeously. B4SA further welcomes the constructive dialogue that is now taking place with the UIF Commissioner and his team and remains hopeful that identified issues can be resolved soon, for the benefit of employees. B4SA also ask that applications for June be opened immediately so that any further system delays can be resolved and that payments reach employees by the normal June pay date.

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## WEBINAR INVITATION WITH TOMORROW TODAY GLOBAL

Please see the below invitation to join a **free** webinar, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 23 June 2020.

**RSVP to [services@amcham.co.za](mailto:services@amcham.co.za).**

Join us for a webinar on

## AC/DC: Life After/During COVID-19

10:00 A.M. | 23 June 2020  
TUESDAY

Futurist and scenario planner, Graeme Codrington, looks at the most likely scenarios for the next few months and years. For at least the next 18 months, we will be living a world with Covid, and needing to find a dynamic balance between confidence and fear. After we have dealt with Covid, the world will not go back to normal, and many aspects of our lives will be changed forever.

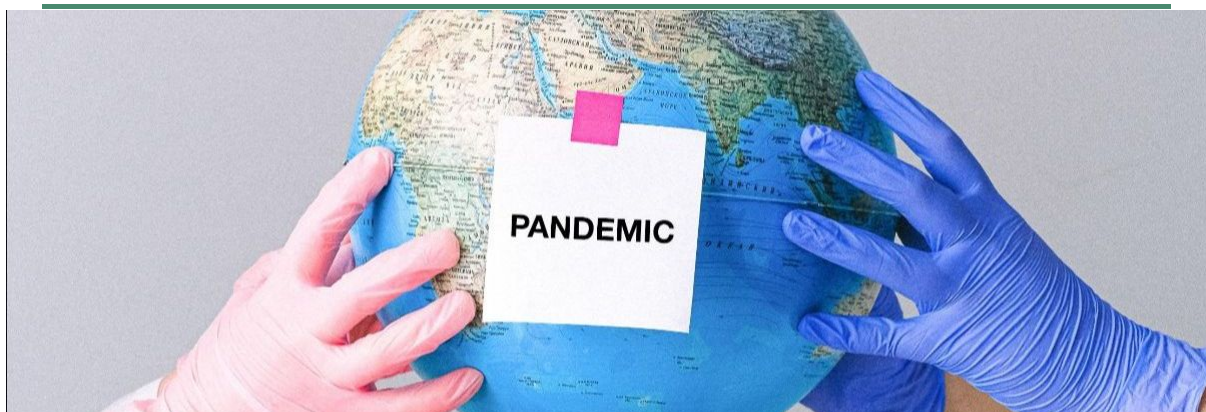
Discover what Graeme and his team at TomorrowToday Global believe we should start preparing for now if we are to thrive in the rest of the 2020s and beyond.

Graeme is an internationally recognised futurist, specialising in the future of work. He helps organisations understand the forces that will shape our lives in the next ten years, and how we can respond in order to confidently stay ahead of change. For the past two decades Graeme has worked with some of the world's most recognised brands, travelling to over 80 countries in total, and speaking to around 100,000 people every year.



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**SAHPRA**  
South African  
Health Products  
Regulatory Authority

### REPORT UNLICENCED COMPANIES TO SAHPRA

Several members have contact SAMED about companies trading medical technologies without a SAHPRA Medical Device Establishment License. These companies are trading illegally and it is essential that they be reported to SAHPRA for investigation.

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sending a report. You can download this list as at 26 May 2020, [here](#). Please ensure that you visit the SAHPRA website to obtain updates as this is an evolving list.

Report unlicensed companies by emailing: [mokgadi.fafudi@sahpra.org.za](mailto:mokgadi.fafudi@sahpra.org.za)

## IMPORTANT SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE NOTICES

- [MD010\\_Guidance\\_Rapidly\\_developed\\_ventilators\\_26May2020\\_v1](#)
- [PCR Tests Authorised for Listing by SAHPRA – 19.05.2020Specification criteria for COVID-19 serological test kits](#)
- [Joint Communication-Regulatory Status of Equipment Used to Help Prevent COVID-19](#)
- [NRCS media Release – Standards for Masks and Disinfectants](#)
- [Regulatory Requirements for the manufacture, distribution or wholesale of Serological COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#)
- [SAHPRA clarifies the issue of COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#)
- [MEDICAL DEVICES INCLUDING IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTICS \(IVDS\) REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF MEDICAL DEVICES IN LIGHT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC](#)

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## SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE CONTACTS

SAHPRA has launched a COVID-19 Medical Device Hotline to deal with COVID-19 related queries.

- 084 220 8037
- 072 993 2273
- 078 281 6334

For queries on COVID-19 please email [mdcovid@sahpra.org.za](mailto:mdcovid@sahpra.org.za) and all other regular medical device queries can be sent to [MDnotifications@sahpra.org.za](mailto:MDnotifications@sahpra.org.za)

For general licensing queries: June Searela [june.searela@sahpra.org.za](mailto:june.searela@sahpra.org.za) / 072 828 2416

For COVID-19 related applications: Matlapeng Shabalala [Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za](mailto:Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za) / 071 302 0409 or

Khanyisile Nkuku [Khanyisile.Nkuku@sahpra.org.za](mailto:Khanyisile.Nkuku@sahpra.org.za) / 081 854 7109

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The SAMED Library is a dedicated resource for all COVID-19 related updates, regulations, notices and news.

All SAMED COVID-19 updates and related information can be found [here](#).

[CLICK HERE](#)

DO YOU HAVE A  
COVID-19  
QUESTION OR  
QUERY?

Please visit the [FAQ Section](#) of our



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the frequently asked questions we receive.



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## PARTICIPATE ON B4SA COVID-19 PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The information collected on the B4SA [covid19manager.co.za](https://covid19manager.co.za) platform will be used to ensure supplier verification, regulatory compliance, product availability, reasonable pricing and providing the accurate and most up-to-date logistical information to the procurement department division at BSA to place orders from you and/or assist with ramping up local production. It is an automated process to help facilitate the overwhelming demand currently being experienced in South Africa during the weeks to come.

**NOTE: THIS IS A LIVE SYSTEM SO PLEASE UPDATE YOUR STOCK QUANTITIES AND LEAD TIME AS AND WHEN THEY CHANGE.**

Please see the following [link to the video](#) for an explanation of how to use the portal and click on <https://covid19manager.co.za/> to add your company and product information.

You will most likely be contacted by a member of the BSA procurement team should your information provided need to be verified or an order need to be placed.

If you have any questions about the status of your registration, on the types of PPE and medical equipment that B4SA are procuring, if you are struggling to complete your application, or if you have any other queries, please get in touch with the B4SA support team via [covid19portal@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19portal@businessresponsecovid19.co.za). If you are not receiving feedback from the administrators, please check your spam/junk folders.

SAMED is appreciative of the support and commitment of our members in fighting this pandemic.

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## THE SOLIDARITY FUND

The Solidarity Fund provided more details on its purpose and mandate of mobilising and coordinating efforts and resources from all South Africans and the international community to assist most vulnerable South Africans to deal with the impact of Covid19 and the consequences of measures intended to slow its rate of infection. One of its key focus areas is a Health Response with direct support for the healthcare system, augmenting both the private and government healthcare sectors to ensure they have what they need, as well as enabling emergency supplies.

**Details on how to donate are available on the Fund's website [www.solidarityfund.co.za](http://www.solidarityfund.co.za)**

**For more information email [info@solidarityfund.co.za](mailto:info@solidarityfund.co.za)**

**For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send**

**to [covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)**

**If you are seeking PPE for your hospital, clinic, or NGO please email your request**

**to [covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za](mailto:covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za)**

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## COVID-19 EVENTS

### VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: AFRICA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCESS

Recognizing the urgent need for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination to ensure that Africa plays a leadership role in the development and access to potential vaccines, this two-day virtual conference, under the leadership of H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), will bring together healthcare professionals, researchers, public health experts, policymakers,

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When: 24 &amp; 25 June 2020

Download the invitation [here](#).To register, [click here](#).[Back to top](#)

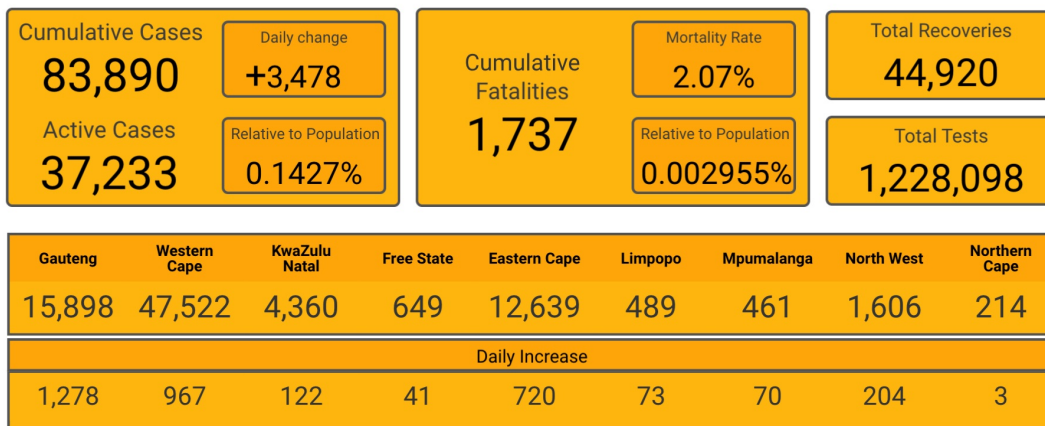
## OMMIA HEALTH COVID-19 VIRTUAL EXPO

Ommia Health Live are bringing together the global healthcare industry, for the largest virtual gathering ever seen before, a whole new concept planned from the ground up to be more diverse and accessible, taking place 22-26 June 2020.

[Join the experience here](#)[Back to top](#)

## COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

### TRACKING THE PANDEMIC



The Western Cape COVID-19 [testing backlog has been cleared](#). In recent weeks, questions have been raised about government's testing strategy when it was revealed that there was a testing backlog of over 96 000.

### ECONOMICS, POLITICS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIAL

- President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday evening announced that restaurants and hair salons, among others, will be allowed to reopen under Level 3 of the COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa. Read [the President's full speech here](#). Key things to note are:
  - Life-saving COVID-19 drug manufactured in South Africa. Ramaphosa said in the midst of a "life-saving COVID-19 drug manufactured in South Africa. Ramaphosa said in the midst of a "life-saving COVID-19 drug manufactured in South Africa. Ramaphosa said in the midst of a breakthrough in the treatment of Covid-19 using a steroid drug dexamethasone.
  - COVID-19 infections are rising rapidly in South Africa Ramaphosa said nearly a third of all confirmed cases had been recorded in the last week alone, and more than half of all confirmed cases had been recorded over the last two weeks.
  - Wearing masks and handwashing are the most effective way to combat the virus. Studies show that wearing a cloth mask or similar piece of clothing that covers both nose and mouth at all times while in public places is effective in slowing down the spread of the virus.
  - Fumigation tunnels may be harmful. Medical experts had advised the government that fumigation tunnels and body spraying, which has been set up at taxi ranks and major buildings, may be harmful and should not be used.
  - South Africa takes a targeted approach with COVID-19 testing. South Africa, like many other countries, has been affected by the global shortage of coronavirus test kits and other materials. He said the country has, therefore, become more targeted in its testing, prioritising patients in hospitals, healthcare workers, vulnerable people like the elderly and hotspot areas.
  - The government has decided to reopen under lockdown Level 3: Restaurants for "sit-down" meals; Accredited and licensed accommodation, with the exception of home-sharing accommodation like Airbnb; Conferences and meetings for business purposes and in line with restrictions on public gatherings; Cinemas and theatres, to be aligned to limitations on the gathering of people; Casinos; Personal care services, including hairdressers and

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Ramaphosa said at a time when the pandemic has left the country feeling vulnerable and uncertain, violence is being unleashed on women and children with "a brutality that defies comprehension". He said the country now had a National Strategic Plan to guide the national effort against GBV. During the lockdown period, the national government have ensured that survivors of GBV have access to support and services, including the GBV hotline, shelters and centres providing support to victims of sexual violence. Since December 2019, 10 government-owned buildings had been handed over to the Department of Social Development to be used as shelters. 13 regional courts had been upgraded into sexual offences courts, 7 000 evidence collection kits had been distributed to every police station in the country and there were more than 1 000 survivor-friendly rooms at police stations. More than 3 000 government employees who work with children and mentally disabled persons had been checked against the National Register for Sex Offenders.

- o South Africa should question its relationship with alcohol. The country should ask itself about the effect alcohol abuse has not only on the levels of violence but also on road accidents and reckless behaviour.
- [Tourism industry wants clarity on eased level 3 lockdown regulations](#): Accredited and licensed accommodation would be allowed to open with strict hygiene measures in place. It was not yet clear when they would be able to open their doors. Western Cape economic opportunities MEC David Maynier was pleased that more tourism businesses would be able to trade, but he added that clarity was needed. "On whether these relaxed regulations include accommodation for leisure purposes and especially whether intra-provincial travel for leisure purposes will be permitted," Maynier said. Tsogo Sun's John van Rooyen said local travellers were needed to boost business and avoid retrenchments. "The occupancy is extremely low at the moment. Inter-provincial travel will also assist us tremendously to get more volume of people," Van Rooyen said. Currently, inter-provincial travel was only allowed under certain circumstances, for example, funerals and business domestic air travel.
- [President Cyril Ramaphosa took a "rain check" when asked how many ANC councillors have been arrested for COVID-19-related corruption](#) and challenged any Chapter 9 institution to approach the Constitutional Court if they feel the executive interferes in their functioning. Ramaphosa was responding to questions during a hybrid sitting of the National Assembly on Thursday afternoon when DA interim leader John Steenhuisen asked him how many ANC councillors have been arrested for corruption with the distribution of food parcels. "I will have to take a rain check on that one," Ramaphosa responded, adding the information was being collated.
- Gauteng Premier David Makhura says his government would be in a "difficult position" if it were to push for the [closure of certain sectors, but it would do so if COVID-19 infections became uncontrollable](#). The country's economic hub would be in the midst of the pandemic's surge within the next two months. He expected it to be "tough". Makhura also admitted the peak would likely hit sooner than initially calculated, especially as more sectors of the economy were opening.
- Two Ugandan entrepreneurs working to upcycle plastic waste into building materials have altered their production to tackle the shortages of personal protective medical equipment (PPE) in hospitals dealing with the country's COVID-19 patients. They are [recycling plastic waste into face shields for medical workers](#).

#### CLINICAL, SCIENTIFIC

The WHO has decided to [stop trials of hydroxychloroquine](#) as a potential treatment for COVID-19 patients, finding it did not reduce the mortality rate. The antimalarial drug was being withdrawn from its multi-country Solidarity Trial of potential treatments. The internal evidence from the Solidarity/Discovery Trial, the external evidence from the Recovery Trial and the combined evidence from these large randomised trials brought together, suggest that hydroxychloroquine - when compared with the standard of care in the treatment of hospitalised COVID-19 patients - does not result in the reduction of the mortality of those patients.

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SAMED is the voice of the South African medical technology industry. The not-for-gain was formed in 1985 and aims to provide members with a collective, objective and credible platform to engage with stakeholders. SAMED's members include individual medical technology companies, associate members and associations.

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