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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

AFRICAN MEDICAL SUPPLIES PLATFORM

All 55 member states of the African Union (AU) are now able to place orders for certified coronavirus (COVID-19) critical medical equipment via an online one-stop shop.

Named the [Africa Medical Supplies Platform](#) (AMSP), the online portal was unveiled during a virtual media conference convened by president Cyril Ramaphosa, the current AU chairperson, on Thursday evening.

Ramaphosa described the portal as a jewel in the crown of Pan-African cooperation, noting that COVID-19 has provided a great opportunity as much as it is a dark cloud hanging over the continent. "The silver lining around it is the creativity that has surged to the fore, finding ways of solving a problem.

"The Africa Medical Supplies Platform, developed in partnership with Afreximbank, is a ground-breaking innovation. It is a continental online portal to enable every single African country to access critical medical supplies needed in the fight against the pandemic.

"Through this platform, we will address shortages and security of supply, ensure price competitiveness and transparency in procurement, reduce logistical delays, simplify payment processes and provide a common platform where governments can access services from quality and certified suppliers.

Think of it as the Amazon, the Alibaba or even the eBay of coronavirus resources on the African continent – made in Africa by Africans." Ramaphosa - [Read more.](#)

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COVID-19 TERS Update

At a meeting last week, the UIF confirmed the following with respects to the COVID-19 TERS:

1. The Fund is committed to paying benefits for 3 months.
2. The Fund will honour the R40 billion committed to by the Department.
3. The benefit structure will not change.
4. The COVID-19 TERS will not continue beyond the end of June 2020.
5. June 2020 applications will be opened from midnight of 23 June 2020.
6. A media statement will be issued to communicate the cut-off dates for April, May and June applications.

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WESTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BRIEFING

The Ad-hoc Committee on COVID-19 was briefed by the Head of the Western Cape Department of Health on its COVID-19 response strategy which was met with admiration and appreciation.

The presentation gave an encompassing view including its approach to contact tracing, critical and palliative care bed status, budget expenditure, National Department of Health support; private hospital

reserving test kits in short supply for high-risk people, health workers and the sick.

A breakdown was given of hospitalisation and bed numbers. Temporary hospitals had been set up at Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) with 862 beds; CTICC 2 with 800 beds, Brakengate with 338 beds; Cape Winelands with 150 beds and Khayelitsha with 60 beds. National Department of Health (NDOH) support saw Minister Mkhize designating Dr Nicholas Crisp to assist the Western Cape Health team in the finalisation of plans to address the challenges with the primary task being to assist with the implementation of a hotspot containment. Hospitals are split between the private and public sector; with a Call for Service issued to all licensed private hospital groups in the Western Cape to purchase bed capacity for Palliative care, General and High Care and ICU.

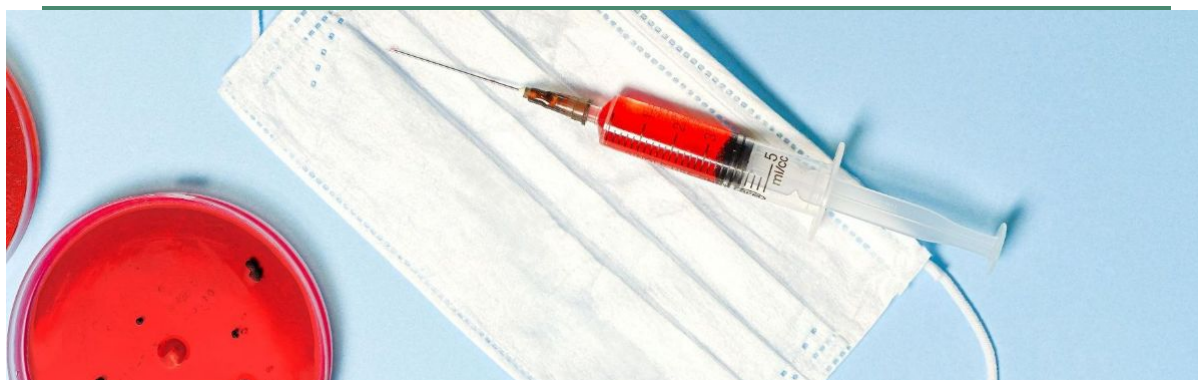
The number of health worker infection cases was cumulatively at 1832; 652 were currently active while 15 had passed away. Risk 1 dealt with testing strategy and capacity; Risk 2 with recruiting and sourcing of additional staff members; Risk 3 dealt with budget approval and availability of finances.

Members of the COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee asked, with the new testing regime policy that no under 55-year-olds may be tested for the virus, how would the Western Cape identify when it had entered its peak and what was being done about returning to normal? Was it true that community screening and testing was not a high priority? People living in disadvantaged communities do not have the space to self-isolate so what is WCDOH doing about that?

Download the minutes of the meeting [here](#).

Download the presentation [here](#).

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COVID-19 PRODUCT REQUEST: RIGHT TO CARE

Right To Care has funding to purchase equipment, furniture and appliances etc. for the COVID-19 response.

If any member manufactures any of the items on their list, please complete the spreadsheet and send it to Thandiwe Magagula (mdmsasecretariat@mdmsa.co.za). All queries can be directed to Thandiwe on 060 88 55 305.

Download the Consolidated Equipment Requirements [here](#).

Download the spreadsheet for completion [here](#).

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ENS AFRICA: A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF RECENT MEASURES AIMED AT CURBING THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN AFRICA

- **Africa:** African hotel development had returned to growth at the start of 2020, with more than 78,000 rooms in 408 hotels in the pipeline, according to the 12th annual survey by W Hospitality Group. W Hospitality Group's managing director, Trevor Ward, said: "However, our industry has been devastated by the impact of COVID-19, possibly more so than most other economic sectors, mainly because of the almost total shutdown of borders and of the aviation sector – no flights means no guests." This year's African Hotel Chain Development Pipeline survey covers 35 international and regional hotel contributors across the 54 countries in north and sub-Saharan Africa, and in the Indian Ocean islands. *Source: Africa Business Communities*
- **Africa:** The Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP) adopted as a single online marketplace to enable the supply of COVID-19-related critical medical equipment in Africa was developed under the leadership of African Union Special Envoy, Strive Masiyiwa and powered by Janngo on behalf of the African Union's Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and in

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of vetted manufacturers and procurement strategic partners and enables African Union member states to purchase certified medical equipment such as diagnostic kits, personal protective equipment and clinical management devices with improved cost effectiveness and transparency. The platform serves as a unique interface enabling volume aggregation, quota management, payment facilitation as well as logistics and transportation to ensure equitable and efficient access to critical supplies for African governments. The Afreximbank will facilitate payments while logistics partners including African national carriers, global freight forwarders will expedite delivery. *Source: APO Group*

- **Africa:** With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crippling economies the world over and set to trigger into motion Africa's first recession in 25 years, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and its partners teamed-up to produce a new report which proposes several interventions to promptly and effectively address COVID-19 challenges on the continent at the urban level. The report titled: 'COVID-19 in African Cities: Impacts, Responses and Policies', analyses the current situation within the African continent and efforts channeled at mitigating the global pandemic within the context of cities in the region. *Source: APO Group*
- **Africa / China:** To defeat COVID-19 through greater solidarity and cooperation, and to highlight an even stronger China-Africa community with a shared future, Chinese and African leaders convened an Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity Against COVID-19 via video link on 17 June 2020. The Summit is a joint initiative between the People's Republic of China, the Republic of South Africa in its capacity as the Chair of the African Union (AU), and the Republic of Senegal in its capacity as the Co-Chair of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). *Source: tralac*
- **West Africa:** West African government ministers have proposed re-opening borders between their countries in the first half of July and allowing in travellers from other countries with low or controlled levels of COVID-19 spread by the end of July. Countries across the 15-country ECOWAS trade bloc have imposed varying levels of travel restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with many shutting their borders entirely. The new proposal, contained in an ECOWAS summary of a virtual meeting of foreign ministers and trade ministers, called for coordinated efforts to re-open cross-border trade that has been crippled by COVID-19 restrictions. *Source: Reuters*
- **Ghana:** The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) has directed its Customs Division at the port to resume normal operations, as their shift system which was put in place due to measures to check the spread of COVID-19 has been cancelled. The move is part of urgent steps being taken by the GRA to ensure that the backlog of goods that have not been cleared at the port, due to challenges faced with the newly introduced Integrated Customs Management System (ICUMS) managed by UNIPASS, is handled quickly. *Source: GhanaWeb*
- **Kenya:** Efforts to speed up cargo movement in the region received a major boost on Tuesday, 16 June after the European Union (EU) signed a deal with Trademark East Africa (TMEA) to fund safe clearance at the ports and border points. Under the KES602-million (EUR5-million) emergency trade programme, mobile testing labs will be provided at Mombasa port and key border crossings, including Busia and Malaba. The programme to be rolled out under public-private partnership will also provide personal protective equipment to port and border point workers to cushion them from COVID-19 spreading at these trade hubs. *Source: Business Daily*
- **Kenya:** Kenya Power and Lightning company has issued a profit warning for its financial earnings closing on 30 June 2020, saying its earnings will be much lower than those of the previous year. The electricity distributor has attributed the projection to the COVID-19 pandemic, saying it has adversely affected business operations leading to slow growth in electricity sales. Additionally, the virus has led to an increase in financing costs, resulting in reduced earnings. *Source: Capital FM*
- **Kenya:** The government is betting that its spending running into a total of KES3.2-trillion in the fiscal year starting 1 July will be enough to keep the economy from falling into a recession by countering the contractionary impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Treasury projects that GDP will grow at a slower 2.5% in the upcoming financial year and thereafter rebound to 5.8% in the subsequent year. *Source: Business Daily*
- **Kenya:** The government has bowed to pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and agreed to do away with income tax, value-added tax and sales levy cuts that were introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Treasury Secretary Ukur Yatani told Parliament that once the COVID-19 pandemic ends, the government will have to review the tax breaks so as to close the gap between the budget and expected revenues estimated at KES840-billion. *Source: Business Daily*
- **Malawi:** The Ministry of Transport and Public Works has recommended that the country's airports should open for international flights from 15 July. Flights in Malawi were put on hold from the 1 May in a bid to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Source: BusinessMalawi™*
- **Mozambique:** A total of 1,007 Mozambican companies have asked the National Social Security Institute (INSS) to waive fines and interest charges in the context of COVID-19 impact relief, the minister of Labour and Social Security has said. Margarida Talapa told the daily 'Notícias' that the INSS had granted 366 requests for waivers of fines and interest on arrears, with other companies'

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- **Nigeria:** About 20 operators in the aviation sector, including the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, have submitted their operational restart plans to the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority as the country prepares to reopen its airspace to commercial flights from 21 June 2020. *Source: Economic Confidential*
- **Sudan:** The Sudanese government on Wednesday, 17 June decided to extend the full curfew in Khartoum State for 10 more days starting Friday, 19 June to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Security and Defense Council announced. "The Council has approved the recommendations by the Higher Committee for Health Emergencies to extend the curfew from June 19 to June 29," the Council said in a statement. *Source: Xinhua*
- **Rwanda:** Rwanda's National carriers, Rwandair has announced a prolonged suspension of commercial flights into the country despite a recent cabinet meeting opening tourism and hospitality activities including holding meetings in hotels. The cabinet on 16 June reopened domestic and international tourism. However, international tourists allowed are only those on charter flights. The airline said that Rwanda's airspace remains closed to commercial flights in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 into the country. *Source: KT Press*
- **Rwanda:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board on Thursday, 11 June approved the disbursement of the funds bringing the total to IMF COVID-19 support to Rwanda to USD220.46-million. *Source: The New Times*
- **Tanzania:** In a week that the region's governments were unveiling their annual budget for financial year 2020/21, the World Bank has forecast Tanzania's economic growth to slow down sharply in 2020 to 2.5% from last year's 6.9% as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing global economic crisis. *Source: The EastAfrican*

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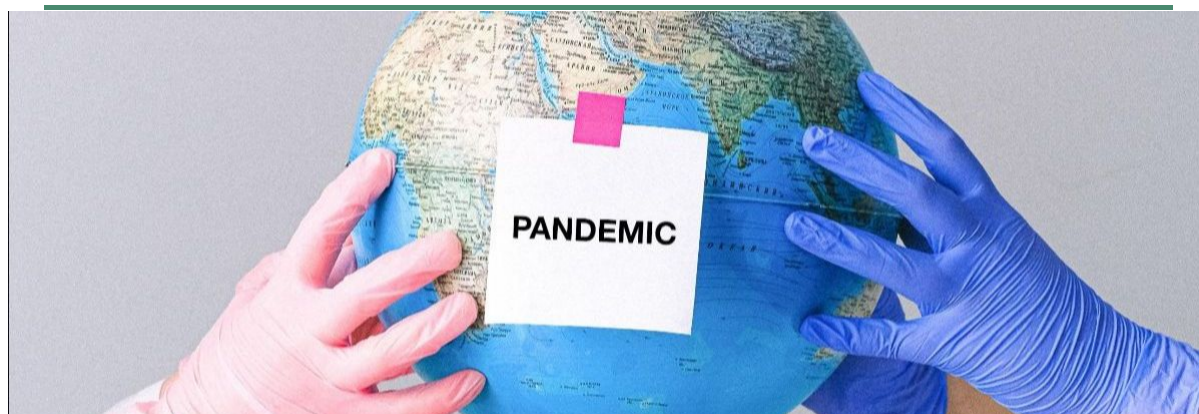
PROTOCOLS FOR PERSONAL CARE SERVICES TO RESUME BUSINESS

Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, MP, the Minister for Small Business Development, issued a Directions in order to provide protocols to mitigate and manage the COVID -19 outbreak amongst employees and customers in the personal care services industry. In consultation with Cabinet member responsible for health (Minister of Health), these services have been deemed safe to resume, under the specified conditions provided.

These Directions are issued in order to assist categories of services under the Personal Care Service industry that are deemed as safe to resume operations and specify conditions (protocols) under which such services may operate. The permitted services under this Directions may only commence with operations upon ensuring full compliance with the relevant protocols for their services. The categories of services that are deemed safe to resume operations are the following -

1. Hairdressing;
2. Barbering;
3. Nail and toe treatment;
4. Facial treatment and make - up;
5. Body massage; and
6. Tattooing and body piercing.

Download the notice and protocols [here](#).

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SAHPRA Medical Device Establishment License. These companies are trading illegally and it is essential that they be reported to SAHPRA for investigation.

SAHPRA has published a list of licenced companies under documents on their [medical devices page](#) which you can use to check if the company has a Medical Device Establishment License before 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

IMPORTANT SAHPRA MEDICAL DEVICE NOTICES

- [MD010_Guidance_Rapidly developed ventilators_26May2020_v1](#)
- [PCR Tests Authorised for Listing by SAHPRA – 19.05.2020](#) Specification 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 and all other regular medical device queries can be sent to MDnotifications@sahpra.org.za

For general licensing queries: June Searela june.searela@sahpra.org.za / 072 828 2416

For COVID-19 related applications: Matlapeng Shabalala Matlapeng.Shabalala@sahpra.org.za / 071 302 0409 or

Khanyisile Nkuku 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

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Please visit the [FAQ Section](#) of our library as it provides answers to many of the frequently asked questions we receive.



PARTICIPATE ON B4SA COVID-19 PROCUREMENT PORTAL

The information collected on the B4SA 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. 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

For more information email info@solidarityfund.co.za

For offers of supply of Medicines and Medical Devices send

to covid19supplies@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

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

to covid19requests@businessresponsecovid19.co.za

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COVID-19 EVENTS

OMMIA HEALTH COVID-19 VIRTUAL EXPO

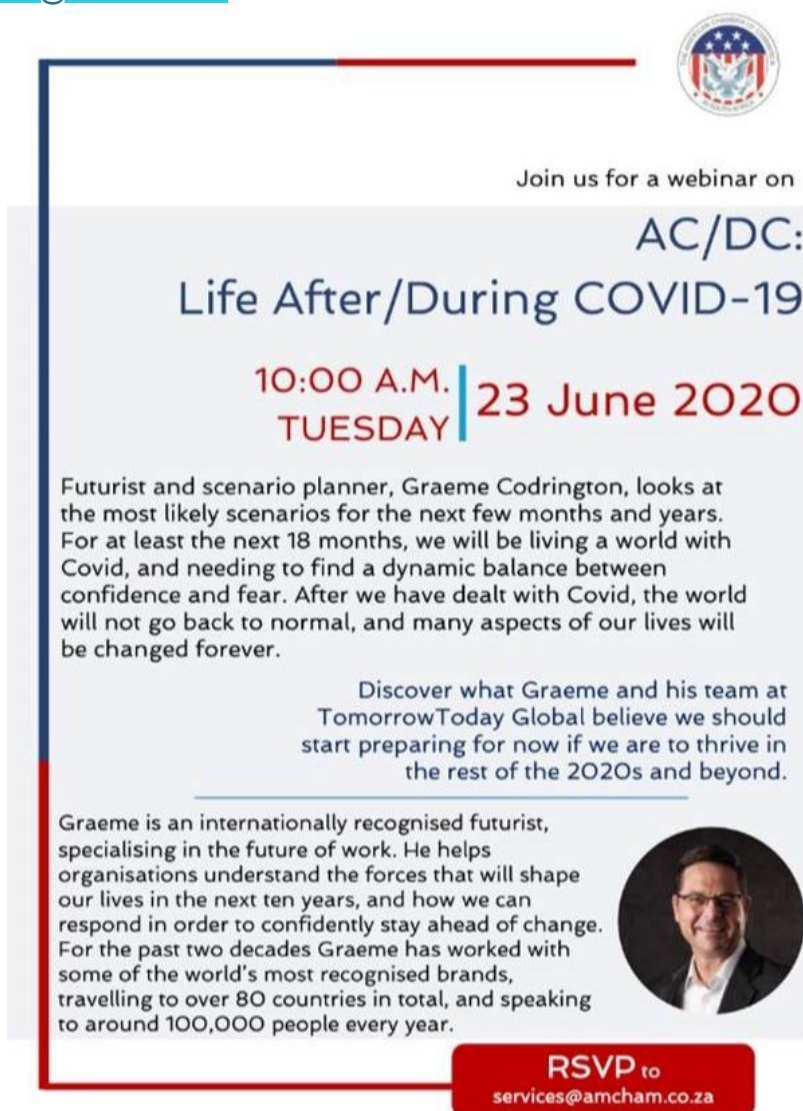
Omnia Health Live are bringing together the global healthcare industry, for the largest virtual gathering ever seen before, a whole new concept planned from the ground up to be more diverse and accessible, **taking place 22-26 June 2020.**

[Join the experience here](#)

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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.



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.

RSVP to
services@amcham.co.za

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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, media, civil society, community and religious leaders, and industries to explore this topic and help develop a framework for COVID-19 vaccine development and access in Africa.

When: 24 & 25 June 2020

Download the invitation [here](#).

To register, [click here](#).

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COVID-19 DEVELOPMENTS

TRACKING THE PANDEMIC

- The curve continues to **rise more steeply**, with 4 621 new cases recorded on Sunday along with 53 additional deaths. The death rate **holds steady** at 2% and recoveries are around 53%.
- There has been a **surge of cases in Gauteng**, which saw more than 9 600 new cases last week.

COVID-19 STATISTICS IN SA

				
1 328 060	97 302	51 608	1 930	4 621
TESTS CONDUCTED	POSITIVE CASES IDENTIFIED	TOTAL RECOVERIES	TOTAL DEATHS	NEW CASES



Learn more to Be READY for #COVID19:
www.sacoronavirus.co.za

NICD Hotline: 0800 029 999
WhatsApp 'Hi' to 0600 123 456



HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS

- The Western Cape is preparing for the **imminent peak** of the epidemic in that province, says Premier Alan Winde. There have been more than 350 deaths in the province in a week and it has 302 people in ICU and a further 1 299 in hospital. About two-thirds of people admitted to ICU do not survive. However, the Western Cape reflects the rest of the country in terms of a total recovery rate of 53%. (News 24)
- Gauteng Health Department is reporting **cluster outbreaks** related to the holding of funerals. It reported at the weekend that 718 people were currently in hospital receiving treatment. In addition, of 21 854 people notified as contacts of confirmed cases, 14 378 had completed the 14-day isolation period without any sign of infection.
- The **general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, Bishop Malusi Mpumlwana**, has been chosen to head the ministerial advisory committee on **behaviour change**, appointed by the Minister of Health. He is one of a number of religious leaders serving on this body which is intended to improve government's ability to secure popular support for social distancing and hygiene measures to contain the epidemic. (Daily Maverick)
- The Daily Maverick carries a feature article by a group of health experts that argues the coronavirus **epidemic can be contained** if government pays closer attention to both the biological mode of transmission and social routes of transmission. [Read more.](#)
- Health workers in the Eastern Cape and Western Cape are reporting that **hospitals are under severe pressure**, according to an AFP article. At Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth, a nurse reportedly said they were running out of space and protective equipment was inadequate. In the Western Cape, a health worker at a smaller hospital said they battled to refer patients to ICUs as these were already full and so they had to manage seriously ill patients on oxygen alone.
- Want to know what it's like to be **Health Minister Zweli Mkhize** right now? A long feature in the Insight section of the Sunday Times carries a first-person description of 24 hours in the life of Dr Mkhize, which typically ends at 2 am or 3 am.

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

ECONOMIC & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENTS

- A story in the Sunday Times suggests the extent to which the **economic agenda**, rather than a public health strategy, is currently directing policy in relation to the COVID19 epidemic in South Africa. It discloses that Tourism Minister Mmamoloka Kubayi-Ngubane advocated strongly within Cabinet for the opening up of the tourism and hospitality industries, arguing that there would be little left of these sectors if recovery were further delayed. She told her colleagues 30% of restaurants had already closed their doors permanently and 550 000 to 600 000 jobs could be lost in the hotel industry if they were not allowed to return to operation immediately.
- The Special Investigating Unit is investigating possible **fraud relating to the payment of more than R5m from the Unemployment Insurance Fund** relief system to a single beneficiary. The recipient rapidly disbursed this payment to a number of other individuals, raising suspicion of money laundering. The relief fund has nevertheless done a lot of good, providing a lifeline to approximately 3.6 million people. (Sunday Times)
- **Zimbabwe's Health Minister Obadiah Moyo** has been charged with **corruption** and abuse of office as a result of a large contract for Covid-19 test kits and PPE with a Dubai supplier. This is the Minister's third charge of abuse of office.
- **Liquor stores are reporting record demand** since sales resumed a few weeks ago – typically about double the demand before the lockdown. The major alcohol producer, Distell, said "demand completely exceeded our forecasts". One of the top sellers? Sedgewick's Old Brown Sherry! (City Press)
- Business Times previewed the "**emergency budget**" due to be delivered by Finance Minister Tito Mboweni on Wednesday. The expectation is that figures will indicate the extent of the decline in the economy and the size of the budget deficit due to the drop in tax revenue.
- The **taxi industry is on strike** today in an attempt to force government's hand in paying compensation for lost revenue by taxi operators due to regulations which limit the number of passengers that taxis may carry and severely erode their income.
- The New African Development Bank has granted South Africa a **loan of R1bn** to cushion the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic. (eNCA)
- The Sunday Times carried an article on the "**markup madness**" applicable to water tanks since the huge demand had been created in preparation for opening of schools. The government had been paying R28 000 a tank for supply, transport and installation on a platform (to create water pressure) while the general price was in the region of R5 000.

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