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COVID-19 news from SAMED, Government and Abroad.

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The President issued a statement that there are predictions of businesses shutting down and jobs being lost are materialising. Companies have announced plans to retrench staff. From aviation to construction, from entertainment and leisure to hospitality, companies have indicated their intention to retrench staff because of heavy losses incurred over the past three months. In other cases, businesses are closing permanently. Small businesses whose turnover has been wiped out will be even harder hit.

In April the International Labour Organisation forecast there would be around 305 million job losses worldwide. The situation of workers in the informal economy is even worse, with an estimated 1.6 billion workers in danger of losing their livelihoods.

The measures put in place by the government to protect local businesses during the lockdown in the form of loans, tax relief, debt restructuring, extended credit lines and retail rental exemptions are continuing to provide vital support. Temporary social assistance to poor households is gathering pace and providing vital relief. However, these measures can only go so far.

This week the Minister of Finance will table a revised national budget in Parliament. Revenue has plummeted and difficult decisions will be made in the coming weeks and months as we seek to reprioritise our programmes, manage public spending and scale back on projects where necessary.

Coronavirus has resulted in companies around the world re-evaluating their investment and expansion plans, and we must anticipate that some of these commitments may be scaled back and even cancelled. South Africa still has great investment opportunities and assets to invest in.

There are tough times ahead. There are no quick-fixes and government has to be realistic about their prospects, especially about the time it will take for the SA economy to recover. Even the advanced economies will contract substantially because of COVID-19 and it will take a long time for economic output to return to pre-pandemic levels. [Read more.](#)

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B4SA HELPS INFORMAL SECTOR RETURN TO WORK SAFELY AND OPERATE RESPONSIBLY

Business for South Africa (B4SA), working with partners, is providing business in the informal sector with a set of easy to use Return to Work resources to help guide them on how to operate within the new requirements for health and safety, following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on South Africa.

A set of six guidelines were published covering fast food outlets, home services, small retail, mobile sellers, internet cafés and auto services in the informal sector. The guidelines and tools can be found [here](#) and are being provided in other accessible formats for informal sector businesses.

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Certain informal sectors may have their own protocols or specific requirements – check the informal sectors listed below to find additional information



The Return to Work resources offer businesses a safe, effective and structured return to work plan with mandatory and recommended guidelines for the workplace and daily business operations.

The extended re-opening of the economy under enhanced level 3 in a phased and risk adjusted manner is a welcome move as it allows more people the capacity to earn and restore their livelihoods. As more businesses are allowed to operate and more people return to work we need to ensure that businesses of all sizes and formats operate in a responsible manner so that all are kept safe and businesses remain open.

As B4SA, we echo the President's call for each of us to take personal responsibility in reducing the likelihood that we will get infected or infect others. In communities across our countries, business owners can play a leadership role in setting the example and creating a safe environment for their employees, customers and suppliers.



The Return to Work guidelines and protocols call for businesses to implement and practice stringent health and hygiene measures, amongst others, in the workplace for the protection of themselves, their employees, suppliers and customers. This includes educating staff on how to use Personal Protective Equipment and encouraging its consistent use, regular washing of hands and ensuring customers practice social distancing. Safe transportation guidelines for employees taking public transport are also outlined.

Guidelines for businesses trading in the informal sector were developed with national and local informal sector industry associations representing spaza stores; homes services such as electricians and plumbers; open markets and transport ranks; hawkers and mobile-sellers.

The guidelines are informed by South African realities with the recognition that they may need to be adjusted according to specific conditions.

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CALL FOR COMMENT: GUIDELINES FOR FACESHIELDS AND GOGGLES

The Department of Trade Industry and Competition has prepared a draft guideline for the manufacture of Face-shields and Goggles. Members are called on to comment on this guideline by 30 June 2020. Comment can be made to Mr Thokozani Masilela (TMasilela@thedtic.gov.za) and Mr Mahendra Shunmoogam (mshunmoogam@thedtic.gov.za)

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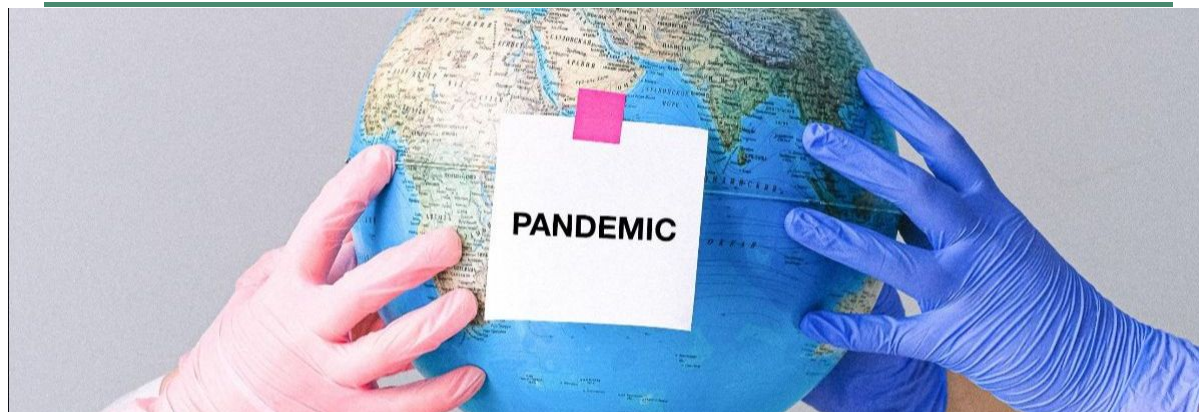
RISK ALERT | DEBT AND DEFICITS

Dr Frans Cronje from the Centre of Risk Analysis, discussed the emergency budget, which will likely reveal that economic growth will contract by at least -7% for 2020. Capacity shortfalls at Eskom and a limited appetite for structural reform will put a hard cap on economic growth prospects going forward, he

Download the risk alert [here](#).

Listen to the analysis from Dr Cronje [here](#).

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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.

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

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

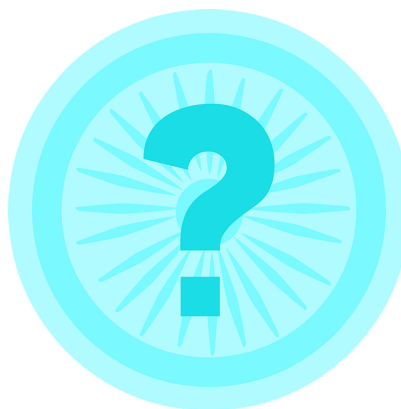
All SAMED COVID-19 updates and related information can be found here.

CLICK HERE



DO YOU HAVE A
COVID-19
QUESTION OR
QUERY?

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

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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

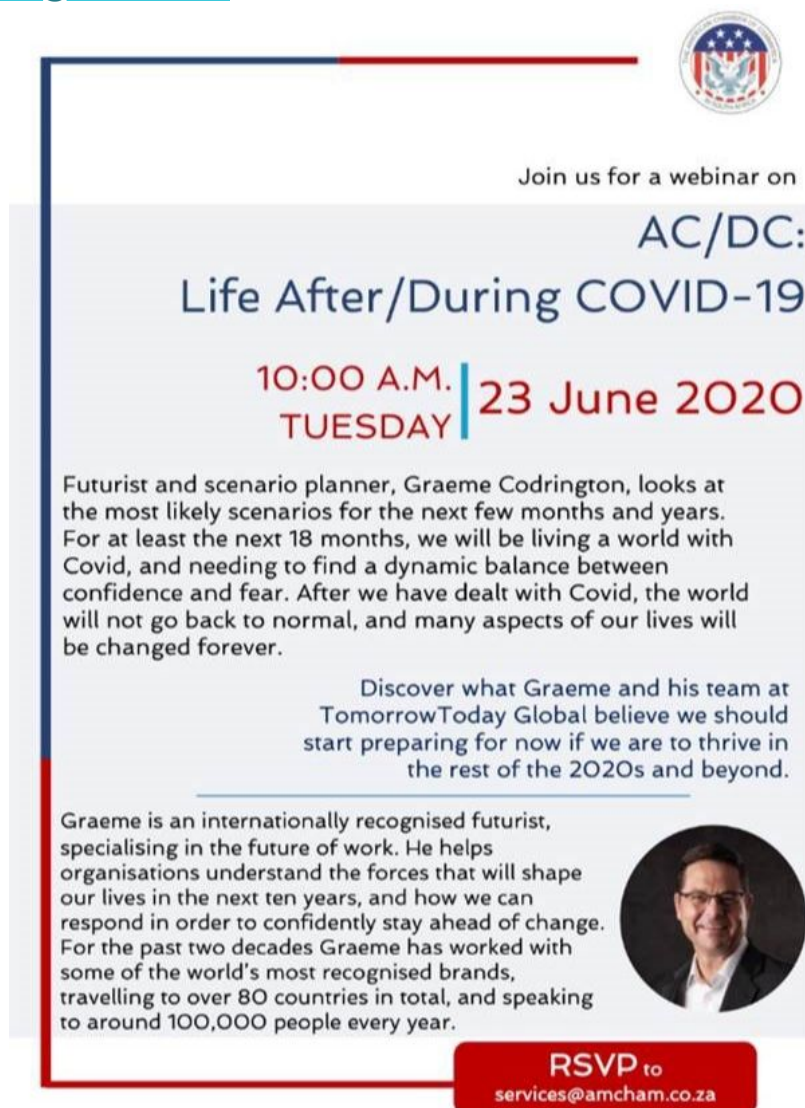
Ommia Health Live are bringing together the global healthcare industry, for the largest virtual gathering ever seen before, a whole new concept planned from the ground up to be more diverse and accessible, taking place 22-26 June 2020.

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

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.



The graphic is a vertical rectangular invitation for a webinar. At the top right is the seal of the American Chamber of Commerce in South Africa. Below it, the text reads: 'Join us for a webinar on'. The main title is 'AC/DC: Life After/During COVID-19'. The date and time are '10:00 A.M. TUESDAY | 23 June 2020'. A paragraph describes the speaker, Graeme Codrington, as a futurist and scenario planner who will discuss likely scenarios for the next few months and years. Another paragraph encourages attendees to discover what Graeme and his team at TomorrowToday Global believe we should start preparing for now. A bio of Graeme is provided at the bottom left, and a circular portrait of him is at the bottom right. A red button at the bottom right says 'RSVP to services@amcham.co.za'.

Join us for a webinar on

AC/DC:
Life After/During COVID-19

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

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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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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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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