



SASS CIRCULAR 4: COVID-19

20 April 2020

Dear SASS members,

We are now well into the lockdown period and SASS would like to update members of developments within the profession.

1. EXTENSION OF LOCKDOWN PERIOD

It is confirmed that Government extended the lockdown with a further 2 weeks, until 30 April 2020. Please ensure your staff members are aware of the extension.

2. FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

Generally, sheriffs are in the difficult situation of attorneys not paying accounts and sheriffs are not allowed to perform normal duties for the month of April, leaving a bleak picture for the profession. Unfortunately, the economic situation of the country cannot be changed, but we need to somehow get through this difficult time to return to our offices after the lockdown.

SASS Members can be assured of the continued support and protection of our members interests and would like to provide the following important information.

2.1 Communication to the Board

In the interest of the profession SASS approached the Board to provide financial assistance for the month of April 2020 to assist sheriffs to meet financial obligations.

Attached hereto a copy of the letter for your information.

We will keep members posted of any developments.

2.2 Application for UIF-COVID19 TERS

This financial assistance scheme is based on the principle that employees are temporarily laid off and does not receive their normal salary, or no salary at all. The UIF will then assist to top up the employee's salary, subject to the requirement that the employee must be registered with the UIF and that the employer make the prescribed contributions to the fund.



South African Sheriff Society (<http://www.sassoc.co.za>)

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We are aware of challenges with the application procedure; however, members are encouraged to persist to lodge the application.

Initially application documents were emailed, but we believe there is now an online application procedure at www.uifecc.labour.gov.za

It is highly unlikely that any claims will be approved and paid out in time for April salaries, but we remain hopeful for payments in future.

2.3 Staff salaries

Members often request guidance on payment of salaries to staff members in the time of lockdown. As previously indicated no formal guidelines or regulations were published, therefore employers must follow their own discretion and acceptable labour practices.

2.4 Other financial assistance schemes

Attached is a complete list of all assistance schemes initiated by Government, for your information.

3. SASS AGM POSTPONEMENT

Colleagues, it is unlikely that we will be able to proceed with the AGM on 5-6 June 2020. Management will consider postponement of the event and update members of developments in this regard.

4. FEEDBACK OF MEETING WITH JUDGE PRESIDENT MLAMBO, GAUTENG COURTS

Thank you to SASS Gauteng leaders for attending the PEEC meeting on 14 April 2020 and for your support to the busiest courts in the country.

Further directives by court will be forwarded to Gauteng members when received.

We trust that all systems will be back to business soon.

SASS is committed to the protection of our profession and will keep members updated of any new developments in this difficult time.

Regards

Petro Roodt, President

“SASS THE ORGANISATION OF CHOICE”