

## STAKEHOLDER MEMO: COVID – 19 Shutdown

Dear Stakeholders

As announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africa will enter a nationwide lockdown for 21-days with effect from midnight on Thursday 26 March 2020. These firm measures are being put in place countrywide to curb the rapid spread of the Coronavirus in our country.

The response from all parts of society is unprecedented and every one of us can make a difference.

PSETA is also playing its part to ensure that its staff's safety is protected and as of Thursday 26 March 2020 all PSETA staff will be working from home. We have taken all necessary steps to ensure we continue to deliver necessary services to you, however despite our best intentions this may have an adverse effect on our ability to maintain high service levels.

All site visits for purposes of monitoring and reporting learners' progress and approvals for workplace learning are suspended with immediate effect until further notice.

Where possible services will be provided remotely through the utilisation of electronic communication platforms. All communication with stakeholders will be via e-mail, teleconferencing, video conferencing, Skype or Zoom Application

Desktop assessments relating to ETQA operations will be put in place to ensure continued operations however Skills Development Providers (SDPs) are to expect delays that may be caused by the national state of disaster and nationwide lockdown.

PSETA will support employers remotely and the date for the submission of Workplace Skills Plans ("WSPs") will be extended to 31 May 2020, as also provided for by the Regulation.

**vision:** Cutting Edge Skills for Quality Public Services

**Mission:** Leading in the development of skilled and competent human capital in the Public Service Sector through:

- effective coordination of skills development interventions based on occupationally directed qualifications;
- focusing on learning programmes; and
- promoting learner placement and absorption within the public sector.

The following must be noted with regard to training by PSETA providers:

- It is noted that the training will be severely affected, affecting learners, affecting learner stipends, and possible affecting PSETA performance.
- Compliance of SDPs to the national state of disaster and lockdown measures must be adhered to.
- Communication must be maintained by the SDP, employer and the PSETA so that the effect of the national state of disaster can be quantified and known by the PSETA.
- Stipends to learners during this time should be continued at full value. This however will have an effect on the duration of the contract. This impact will be assessed after the 21-day lockdown and will be communicated with individual SDPs.
- Workplace based learning programmes will also be suspended for the period of the national state of disaster.
- Documentation relating to training/projects can still be sent and communicated to the SETAs through electronic means or the PSETAs' automated systems.

We ask that you all remain safe and healthy and adhere to the protocols that have been put in place to by our government during this difficult time.

Kind regards



**Farhaan Shamsodeen**

**Acting CEO**

**Date: 24/03/2020**

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