



ECIC STATEMENT:

From: Export Credit Insurance Corporation of South Africa SOC LTD (ECIC)

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CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) HEALTH ALERT

The spread of the Corona Virus, which causes the disease known as COVID-19, has been alarmingly swift and widescale, and is now defined as a global pandemic. It knows no geographical or territorial boundaries, has infected both young and old, and is on the rise in developed and developing countries alike.

The President's address on the evening of 15 March 2020 set out a range of measures that have been and will have to be taken in respect of COVID-19. Under the banner of the Disaster Management Act, South Africa was proclaimed a national state of disaster (Section 27). This Act provides for an integrated and co-ordinated disaster management policy that focuses on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters.

The following key aspects were raised by the President in the proclamation:

- South Africans are advised to avoid travelling through EU, UK, US and China
- Measures must be taken to limit physical contact – gatherings of more than 100 people will be prohibited
- Small gatherings must have a plan in place to prevent and mitigate the potential impact of the virus
- Domestic travel is discouraged
- Non-essential government travel abroad will be curtailed
- All businesses must improve their hygiene control
- A tracking and monitoring system will be implemented to ensure that those who have been infected with the virus are monitored
- Travel ban from high risk countries
- SA Citizens to refrain from travelling to high risk countries
- Foreign nationals from high risk countries will be denied an entry visa into SA and pending visas issued are cancelled
- Schools to close on 18 March 2020 and resume after the Easter Holiday
- SA citizens returning from medium risk countries should undergo high intensity screening
- South Africans who are returning from high risk countries will be required to undergo testing and self-isolation



- Government will be putting fiscal interventions package measures in place to mitigate against the economic impact of COVID 19
- Thirty-five land points of entry to be shut as well as two seaports.

ECIC is also closely monitoring developments relating to the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. While we can't predict what will happen, we want to assure you that the ECIC recognises the risks associated with COVID-19 and is coordinating to ensure we are as ready as we can be to protect our staff, contractors and visitors, serve our clients, and continue to operate.

The following are key actions being taken to ensure the safety of all our stakeholders, as well as to ensure business continuity:

1. Official and medical guidance:

ECIC will monitor constantly the guidance provided by the authorities and keep ourselves current on all relevant official advice and directives and update our guidelines accordingly.

2. Travel:

ECIC have implemented business travel restrictions in line with the President's announced restrictions. International and cross-border travel in areas not identified as high- risk is also prohibited except for critical trips which cannot be avoided. ECIC consider this a prudent step to limit possible exposure of our employees and relevant stakeholders.

3. Meetings:

To ensure that ECIC staff and clients are not unnecessarily exposed, physical meetings with international travellers will be avoided. ECIC will be facilitating the use of video and audio-conferencing tools that will be used to conduct external meetings.

4. Hygiene/ Cleaning:

ECIC would also like to urge you to increase hygiene practices in line with World Health Organisation (WHO) and local government advice.



5. Business continuity:

A significant number of ECIC staff will be working from home where possible. Where this is not possible, arrangements have been made to ensure a safe environment for ECIC employees to continue working on our premises. We are also testing the capacity for our businesses to ensure continuity with teams working from places outside the office.

Whilst organisations and all individuals must adopt a human-centric approach to dealing with this pandemic, the President already highlighted the obvious impact on the economic and financial dynamics in an already strained economy.

ECIC will continuously be monitoring developments of COVID-19 and will take the relevant precautions where necessary.

For further information about the CORONA (COVID-19) VIRUS, please use that contact details and click on the links provided below:

Website: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>

WhatsApp Group Number: 0600 123 456

Official Toll-Free Call Centre: 0800 029 999

Clinicians Hotline: 082 883 9920

WTO Website: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

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