

NATIONAL TEXTILE BARGAINING COUNCIL

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Circular 20/2020 COVID-19

15 June 2020

ATTENTION: ALL EMPLOYERS

Dear Sir/Madam

TEMPORARARY CLOSURE OF UIF HEAD OFFICE DUE TO COVID 19

Please be advised that the UIF Head Office will be temporary closed due to a staff member being tested positive for covid-19.

I have attached a newspaper article for your reading.

This will have an impact on the processing of the UIF claims and may result in a few days backlog.

Your kind co-operation with the above is appreciated.

Kind regards



Alvan Pillay
Secretary
(Sent Electronically)

Employment and Labour Head Office and its entity Compensation Fund temporarily closes to deal with covid-19 cases but continues to process claims
15 June 2020

The Department of Employment and Labour head office and its entity the Compensation Fund offices, will be closed after one employee from each office tested positive for COVID-19.

Compensation Fund will re-open on Thursday 18 June 2020 after the necessary cleaning protocols have been affected. The re-opening date of the Department head office will be announced soon to allow the disinfection and deep cleaning processes to be completed.

Belville Labour Center in the Western Cape also announced a confirmed positive case and its offices will re-open on the 18 June 2020. This includes Cradock Labour Centre in the Eastern Cape which will open its offices on the 17 June 2020.

Colleagues who worked closely with the affected workers are already self-isolating as per the guidelines under the circumstances.

Thobile Lamati, Director-General of the Department said that, the safety of staff remain paramount at all times. "Our officials are an important cog of the working of the South African economy and as such, we will also ensure that they are as safe as possible," he said.

CF Commissioner Vuyo Mafata said, "The three days will allow for deep cleaning and fogging but in the meantime, work will continue as we will be working from our homes to ensure that service delivery is affected as little as possible."

The instance of a positive case comes as the entity of the Department of Employment and Labour entity is dealing with the number of claims that have been lodged regarding COVID-19 contracted on duty.

A total of 367 claims have been lodged with the Fund. The largest number of claims – 118 – comes from the Western Cape. So far, 67 claims have been accepted for liability, 9 have been repudiated and 42 are pending adjudication.

KwaZulu-Natal has registered 77 claims. The Fund has accepted liability of 67 of those claims, 3 have been repudiated while 7 are awaiting adjudication.

Gauteng received 54 claims and 31 of those have been accepted, 7 repudiated and 16 are awaiting arbitration while the Eastern Cape has registered 45 cases of which 26 have been accepted, one has been repudiated and 18 awaits adjudication. Two claims have been registered from Limpopo with one accepted and the other repudiated; meanwhile Mpumalanga had only one case which has been accepted.

The majority of those who have been affected are female accounting for 84% of the claims received. The Fund has accepted liability for 65% of the received claims and only 7% have been repudiated while 27% await adjudication.

"Some of the easiest things all workers can do is to ensure that they practice correct hygiene and where possible, they have the right equipment and personal protection to lessen the infection rate.

We also urge employees to ensure that in cases where they feel unsafe, they should contact the Inspectorate and Enforcement Service so that they can hold employers to the correct standard of protection," said Mafata.

For media enquiries contact:

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"Please continue to adhere to the lockdown regulations. Stay home, wash your hands regularly and keep maintaining the social distance."

-ENDS-

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