



**TO : ALL STAFF**

**FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

**DATE : 24 MARCH 2020**

**RE : STAFF COMMUNIQUE**

**SAFDA's response to the National lockdown announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on COVID-19**

This morning we woke to a new reality. South Africa has been directly impacted by the spread of the corona virus. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in South Africa has gone up to 554 and it appears to be increasing rapidly.

The President has called for a National Lockdown starting from Thursday, the 26th of March 2020 at 12am to 16 April 2020 midnight. President Ramaphosa was very clear in his message that our fundamental task as a country is to contain the spread of the disease. He said, "we had learnt from the actions of other countries and we have therefore decided to act swiftly and dramatically". The decision to enforce a nationwide lockdown for 21 days is a decisive action to save millions of South Africans from infection and save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

As SAFDA it is our highest priority to maintain the protection and wellbeing of EVERYONE. Therefore, we attentively observe all the latest developments and adjust ourselves according to the recommendations of the authorities and health organizations.

The SAFDA Executive Committee has decided to implement the following measures in order to contain people and minimize contact whilst ensuring that we provide our services:

**South African Farmers Development Association**  
*Registration number 163-564 NPO*

KwaShukela, 170 Flanders Drive  
Mt Edgecombe, KwaZulu-Natal  
P.O. Box 1769  
Mt Edgecombe Country Club, 4301

031 508 7283  
info@sa-fda.org.za  
www.sa-fda.org.za



1. All SAFDA communication platforms shall be treated as official platform for the provision of important business communication and facilitation of decision-making. The platforms mentioned above include the following WhatsApp groups:
  - SAFDA Business Group
  - SAFDA Mpumalanga Business Group
  - SAFDA Mpumalanga Staff Group
  - SAFDA Grower Support Group
  - SAFDA Management Group
  - SAFDA CEC Group
  - SAFDA Council Group
  - SAFDA RCC Group
2. All SAFDA staff will be expected to be responsive by taking calls and respond to emails from colleagues, growers and stakeholders.
3. There will be no interface from anyone from SAFDA unless under compelling circumstances.
4. All staff will be required to work remotely (**Please note that this shall be in no way taken as a holiday. Everybody will be expected to communicate/consult with their line manager regarding the schedule of work to be completed whilst working remotely**).
5. Salaries will not be affected regardless of arrangements made during this period.
6. Those who need to prepare for the National Lockdown will be allowed to take **annual leave on Thursday** (Please consult with your line manager to make these arrangements).
7. Company vehicles shall remain parked in a safe place as no movement will be required during this period, and this will be monitored. Should a compelling need arise to use these vehicles, staff concerned must notify their line managers.
8. As you will be working remotely SAFDA will provide additional data connectivity to ensure that all staff is responsive at all times (**Arrangements should be made with your immediate line manager**).

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We trust that you will be safe during these trying times that our country is facing. We thank you for your ongoing efforts and can assure you that you will be supported through this crisis.

Yours sincerely,



**DR SIYABONGA MADLALA**

**Executive Chairman** | South African Farmers Development Association

[smadlala@sa-fda.org.za](mailto:smadlala@sa-fda.org.za) | 071 216 7974 | 031 508 7283

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