

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

FOUNDATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

27 May 2020

THE RE-OPENING OF ALL CONSTRUCTION WORK UNDER ALERT 3 ON 1 JUNE 2020

The Construction Management Foundation welcomes the announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa in his address to the nation on the reopening of all construction and infrastructure works under Alert Level 3 on the Risk Adjusted Strategy to commence on 1 June 2020. Covid-19 continues to have a significant impact on businesses across the South African construction industry and this is a positive step in helping the situation.

The COVID19 Construction Task Team, of which the Construction Management Foundation is a part, has already drafted and submitted a COVID19 Workplace Construction Health and Safety Protocol to the Department of Employment and Labour that outlines measures construction businesses must adopt before re-opening their workplaces and construction sites for safety.

This Task Team is made of 31 organisations representing several stakeholders including construction companies, built environment professional services firms, major materials and products suppliers within the construction supply and value chain. This signals the readiness of the sector to return to work within a risk adjusted construction work environment.

To aid the recovery of the economy we are calling for the following immediate and actionable interventions and measures by the government and business in the construction industry in South Africa.

Government Infrastructure Departments

- The public sector must act quickly and take immediate steps to pay all suppliers as a matter of urgency to support their survival over the coming months.
- All construction and infrastructure procurement agencies (e.g. DPW, DHS, DWS etc.) should identify at risk service providers and make immediate payment to ensure business survival and continuity.

- There are a range of ways to support suppliers in maintaining cash flow during this period. Government must consider alternative options such as advance payment, forward ordering and interim payments.
- Risks associated with advance or pre-payment should be carefully considered and documented.

Construction Businesses

- Ensure all their return to work plan are aligned with the COVID19 Construction Health and Safety Operating Protocol issued by the Department of Labour. Businesses must consult with their associations for further guidance on how to implement.
- Businesses must allow, where appropriate, remote working arrangements to continue and make use of digital collaborative tools. This will accelerate the digital transformation process of the construction industry and create benefits for clients
- It is important to stress that employers in the sector must work together with taxi industry to ensure safe transportation of employees to sites.
- Employers must help their employees by applying for UIF Temporary Relief Employment Scheme (TERS). We are urging employers to pay their employees the full amount and not deduct any monies.

It is our considered view that these measures will help the industry contribute the recovery of the economy. It will save jobs and ensure business continuity. We have further setup a resource page on our website (www.cmfoundation.org.za) with information and guidance on the specific areas that government, business and employees can review to navigate the return to work.

Issued by the Construction Management Foundation NPC

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