

ONE STEP CLOSER TO ALERT LEVEL 1

On Saturday, 15 August 2020, the President Cyril Ramaphosa, gave a national update on the regulations concerning the National Lockdown. The President announced the move to Alert Level 2 which is active since 00h01 on 18 August 2020. The move to Alert level 2 has brought much relief to many businesses and on employees in the tourism, sports, recreational activities, tobacco and alcohol industries.

Since the National Lockdown many employees have been retrenched as a result of loss of profit for business as a result of the National Lockdown. It is no wonder this slim gleam of hope has brought some hope. Prior to the commencement of the National Lockdown, South Africa's unemployment rate was already at a high rate of 28.8%.¹ The increase in unemployment has had a negative impact on individual lives affected and the economy in its entirety.

On the other hand, the loss in business and corruption has in some sectors allowed a black market to thrive. In the tobacco industry, the black market led the Fair-Trade Independent Tobacco Association (FITA) to litigate on the illegality of the ban on cigarettes. The question is can business make up for lost time under Alert Level 2?

What to know as an organizing official under Alert Level 2?

The necessary health and safety protocols must remain in place. This includes observance of guidelines of social distancing, sanitation and hygiene, and use of appropriate personal protective equipment.



It is vital the businesses remember that the Covid-19 virus remains prevalent and it is imperative that employees adhere to the health and safety regulations. It is also imperative that employees travel to perform and acquire services only when necessary. Businesses are encouraged to have employees work from home, if the industry permits.

What are the new regulations under Alert Level 2?

The following are the new regulations issued on [17 August 2020](#) in terms of the Disaster Management Act (Act 57 of 2002):

- Conferences and meetings, concerts and entertainment, fitness centers and gyms, swimming pools, bars, taverns, shebeens and similar establishments, church gatherings are

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/370516/unemployment-rate-in-south-africa/>, accessed on 21/08/2020.

² Picture taken from <https://www.gov.za/>, accessed on 21/08/20.

permitted subject a limitation of 50 people excluding those who participate on a virtual platform.

- Beaches and public parks, museums, galleries and libraries will be open.
- Personal care services, including hairdressing, beauty treatments, make up and nail salons and piercing and tattoo parlors will be open.
- Casinos may open subject to a restriction of more than 50 percent of the available floor space.
- All auctions may open subject to the adherence of all health and safety protocols and social distancing measures.
- All accommodation establishments and tour operators are not to operate more than 50 percent of the available floorspace.
- Weddings are subject to a limitation of 50 persons.

All the new permitted activities are subject to all persons wearing a face mask and adherence to all health and safety protocols and social distancing.

What are the activities not permitted?

- Night clubs;
- Initiation Practices; and
- International travel.

All businesses that can now operate are to ensure that the return to work is phased in and the work space is sanitized.