

16 March 2020

Attention: INSETA Stakeholders

Re: INSETA Communique regarding COVID-19

Dear Valued Inseta Stakeholders

The world is grappling with an issue of enormous scale and human impact and our hearts go out to all those affected by the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Last night, the President, Mr. CR Ramaphosa announced that the COVID-19 outbreak has been declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act. This is in recognition of its magnitude and severity in our country.

The Minister of Health has released a statement urging the population to take the necessary precautionary steps urging increased hygiene and social distancing. Our Executive Authority, the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Science has supported this call and confirmed that “there is no immediate plan to shut down our public higher education and training institutions. However, institutions will have to develop alternative mechanisms for teaching and learning, utilizing technology wherever possible to support alternative teaching methodologies”. He adds that SETAs, “as part of our sector where there is limited contact, will function normally”.

This means that INSETA will not be closing its doors but will be adopting a ‘Business Distancing model’ that discourages contact and encourages virtual engagement.

At INSETA we believe it is our role and responsibility during this time to prioritize two things; namely, the health and well-being of our employees and stakeholders while also playing a constructive role in supporting local health officials and government leaders as they work to contain the virus. Through that lens, we will continue to make decisions with vigilance and courage informed by the latest fact-based information and guided by our mission and values.

Board Members: M.V. Mokgobinyane (Chairperson), G. Conradie (Labour), A. D’Alton (Business), M. Machai (Business), B. McKay (Labour), A. Khoza (Business), W. Hiller van Rensburg (Business), J. Ramsunder (Business), L. Hollis (Labour), V. Pearson (Business), R. Motlhabane (Labour), M. Soobramoney (Labour), T.S Dinyake (Labour), I. Ramputa (Community Organisation), P. Govender (Professional Bodies)

CEO: N. Starr

I therefore wanted to reach out directly to provide an update on the actions that INSETA is taking to help prevent the spread of the virus and support the health and well-being of our employees and our stakeholders.

Please therefore note that in our attempts to contain the spread of the virus, we are initializing the following until further notice:

1. Majority of staff will be working from home with weekly office visits.
2. Staff not able to work from home will be working a staggered schedule to minimize the number of people in regular contact
3. All travel outside the office is suspended until further notice
4. No INSETA workshops will be held until further notice

We apologize for the inconvenience, particularly where we are forced to cancel or postpone planned engagements. We do so in the best interest of both our staff and beneficiaries and trust that the sector will understand.

Any projects that are impacted by our distancing policy will be considered for extension based on motivations received, however, employers should implement projects in alignment with the President and relevant Ministers statements and in terms of each company's own HR Policies.

INSETA will not be recommending to employers to run or cancel training, but we are encouraging alignment with the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology advise to seek "alternative mechanisms for teaching and learning, utilizing technology wherever possible to support alternative teaching methodologies".

Any companies who are not comfortable to continue with training courses may request extension for the registered learners using one of the emails listed below:

Learning Division Workers – Nasreenr@inseta.org.za

Learning Division Youth – Akhonaw@inseta.org.za

Skills Division (WSP's) – Adelines@inseta.org.za

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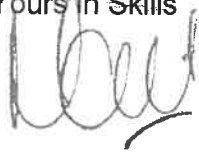
Ground floor, 37 Empire Road
Parktown, Johannesburg 2193
P.O. Box 32035, Braamfontein 2017

Telephone: 011 381 8900
Website: www.inseta.org.za

Escalation to CEO – ceo@inseta.org.za

Should you wish to share pertinent information from the industry on COVID-19 please do not hesitate to send me an email directly.

Yours in Skills



Ms Nadia Starr
Chief Executive Officer