



TO: LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

FROM: CAPE TOWN ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION (CTAA)

DATE: 25 APRIL 2020

RE: DEEDS OFFICE & PERMITS FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Members

On Thursday, 23 April 2020 President Ramaphosa announced that the lockdown regulations will be relaxed and that the various government departments will be making sector specific directions and recommendations pertaining to the re-introduction of various sectors into the economy in the weeks to come in this regard.

Conveyancers:

Since the announcement many requests have been received imploring the Cape Town Attorneys' Association (CTAA) to make representations to the Registrar of Deeds Cape Town and the Chief Registrar of Deeds encouraging the reopening of the Deeds Office. The CTAA's property portfolio is currently liaising with the Cape Town Deeds Office.

Today, 25 April 2020, government published a draft framework for the reopening of various economic sectors. The draft framework specifically list the Deeds Office under its level 4 activities. It suggest that the Deeds Office is due to commence on the first working day, following the hard lockdown, 4 May 2020. Since the draft framework is subject to further revision, members are encouraged to rather wait for the gazetted regulations which will hopefully clear up remaining uncertainties. Better still, members can make submissions as outlined in the annexure below.



Remaining positive, and in anticipation of the reopening of the Deeds Office, firms are requested to observe the health and safety protocols, and to wear personal protection equipment. In particular, the wearing of masks will be compulsory. Please also note that the Deeds Office will at this stage only be open to conveyancers and not any other members of the conveyancing team.

We will communicate the detailed operational protocols once we receive same.

Legal practitioners:

Following complaints received by our members regarding permits to perform essential legal services, the CTAA and two sister associations lodged an application to the High Court on 20 April 2020 for urgent relief. The matter has since been postponed to Tuesday, 28 April 2020 on the basis that the respondents will amend their regulations before 10h00 on 28 April 2020 failing which, the court will grant the CTAA's prayer 3 of its notice of motion. A copy of the CTAA's motion can be downloaded at <https://ctaa.capetown/>. The Legal Resources Centre also joined the CTAA as *amicus curiae*. We will keep members posted.

Legal services, being included in the level 4 activities, will hopefully resume in all its constituents on 4 May 2020.

Cape Town Attorneys Association

Property & High Court Portfolio

<https://ctaa.capetown/ctaa-circular/>

info@ctaa.capetown

ANNEXURE: Guidelines on the Submission of Comments

1. The intention of this document is to provide a template for submission of comments related to the Risk Based Model for Economic Activity. South Africa will be moving to level 4 economic activity hence your comments particularly on the proposals as contained in Level 4 is encouraged.
2. The reference should be clear: alphabetic and numeric, eg A5 _____
3. The risk-based model will be monitored and where necessary amendments will be made to the model in the future.
4. Given the timeframes for response, we request representative associations of sectors, federations of businesses and trade unions and members of the public to make submissions.
5. Comments should be submitted via email in Microsoft Word format for ease of consolidation as follows:
 - Closing Date: Monday, 27 April 2020
 - Email address: lockdowncomments@cogta.gov.za

Clause (number)	Comments