



MEDIA RELEASE

THE MANUFACTURING CIRCLE CALLS FOR SECTOR-WIDE PARTICIPATION IN COVID-19 HEALTH, SAFETY AND HYGIENE PROTOCOLS COMPLIANCE CAMPAIGN

Johannesburg, 23 April 2020 – For Immediate Release

The President of the Republic, The Honourable Cyril Ramaphosa in his address to the nation on 21 April 2020, highlighted that “The pandemic requires an economic response that is equal to the scale of the disruption it is causing”. This means that as we await government to finalise its thinking around the shortest, most effective route to reopening the economy, all of us as sectors have a responsibility to ensure that each one of us is ready with a plan to re-enter the economy that prioritises both the health and wellness of our employees whilst at the same time creating an environment for successful operations.

To this end, The Manufacturing Circle is calling on all small, medium, micro-enterprises, and large manufacturing firms to participate in a sector-wide campaign to assess our readiness to re-enter the economy by ensuring that we each have well thought out compliance plans to implement COVID 19 Health, Safety and Hygiene Protocols.

Manufacturing in South Africa continues to be adversely affected by the uncertainty surrounding the resumption of economic activity.

Ayanda Mngadi, Chairperson of the Manufacturing Circle, says: “The closure of our factories and plants has systematically reduced the country’s productive capacity, placed considerable strain on cashflow liquidity, which in turn, affects the ability to keep our workers gainfully employed.”

While in full support of phase-two of the lockdown, the Manufacturing Circle recognises the need for manufacturers to assure government and our own workforces that we are ready and that we are fully cognisant that the health and well-being of our workers is directly linked to businesses productivity.



In order to mitigate the pressure imposed by COVID-19, we are calling for sector-wide responses to a COVID-19 Protocols Readiness Assessment to solicit commitment and compliance in the following areas:

- Access control to operations
- Screening and temperature testing, and workplace re-induction
- Transportation of employees (without own transport) to operations and home
- Personal Protective Equipment

All Manufacturers with business operations in South Africa are encouraged to submit their responses by Friday 12h00. For more information and to access the survey, please visit www.manufacturingcircle.co.za

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Background information

The Manufacturing Circle is the voice of South African manufacturing and the platform off which manufacturers position the sector as the engine to grow the South African economy.

Established in 2008 as a corporate association of manufacturers, we conduct research and engage with key stakeholders to promote the benefits of manufacturing growth for the economy, to influence policy and to highlight opportunities and priorities for manufacturing growth. The Manufacturing Circle meets periodically with government ministers, heads of key state-owned entities, leaders of provincial and local government as well as other business sector leaders.

To put South Africa on a higher job-rich growth path, to enable us to compete and succeed as a manufacturing destination in the global economy, we need to prioritise three clear goals to:

- Achieve a competitive manufacturing environment;
- Attain a supportive international trade position; and
- Advance the reputation of South African manufactured products. We are committed to working with policy makers and all other stakeholders to achieve these goals. For economic growth.