



**the dpsa**

Department:  
Public Service and Administration  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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## **TO ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS**

### **NO SHUTDOWN OF CRITICAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

- 1.1. As an extraordinary measure to contain the spread of the disease, a decision to implement a nation-wide lockdown for 21 days with effect from midnight on Thursday 26 March 2020 was taken. The declaration of a nation-wide lockdown as a deterrent to the spread of COVID 19 is a measure that was announced by the President understanding the impact it will have on each and every citizen of this country. It is to be noted that the continuous functioning of government operations is critical in any democracy as it is a barometer to which its ability to meet the needs of citizens is measured against.
- 1.2. In light of the aforementioned, the operations of government cannot at this point come to a complete halt. Departments are therefore required to continue with the important task of keeping the government machinery going. No circular or letters must be sent by Heads of Department shutting down government. Where such circulars or letters have been sent in national Departments or provinces, it is advised they must be withdrawn immediately.
- 1.3. The DPSA is in the process of issuing guidance on the manner in which the lockdown will be dealt with in the public service and a circular will be issued during the course of today. Heads of Department are urged to await these guidelines before making any fundamental decisions on any working arrangements.

Kind regards

**Ms Yoliswa Makhasi**  
**Director-General**

Date: 25/03/2020