



LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS THROUGH  
EMPOWERMENT AND COLLABORATION

## **Press Release from the Minara Chamber of Commerce**

**Date: Thursday, 2 April 2020**

The Minara Chamber of Commerce commends our Governments efforts in fighting this Global Pandemic of the Coronavirus ( Covid -19) through urgent interventions by assisting South Africans through disaster relief programmes supported greatly by our community organisations and businesses nationally and not forgetting the various business support programmes.

As a business Chamber we continue to support our business membership through information and regulation updates, encourage safety and precaution awareness.

Whilst we understand this has been a trying time for both business and Government we appeal to Government to provide a basic understanding of what is essential goods & non-essential goods vis a vis products for human consumption.

There are certain grey areas and we find it distressing that SAPS is not only imposing a fine on SMME businesses but closing their doors. Surely this is not the way to react.

Would it not be better to educate your security people including SAPS to have a more empathetic approach to business and advise them as to what they can sell thereby working with businesses rather than in a high handed manner that will destroy businesses which are already struggling?

We applaud the sacrifice and risks these heroes are making to protect our nation in this time of need and emphasise we must all work together.

As a business Chamber we respect and believe that all should abide by the rules of the Country, However we request the Provincial leadership and Heads of Departments to ensure that facts are correct before publicly exposing local businesses for overcharging or high prices based on complaints without giving these businesses an opportunity to respond during this State of Disaster period. This will ensure that the proper procedure is followed by both parties.

Reputational damage caused to these businesses many of whom are in existence for 3 or more decades and have played a significant role during the apartheid years & during our democracy may result in business closures and thousands of jobs lost & an even greater number of dependents that will starve.

It surely is the role of the Department of Economic Development to support, promote and protect SMME's as well as create jobs however recent actions taken are doing the opposite.

SMME's and government will need to work together post Corona to ensure we survive the damage caused to the economy. Surely this means guiding the businesses and ensuring they comply with regulations without using the big stick approach.

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We once again would like to extend our appreciation to the South African Government under the leadership of President Cyril Ramaphosa and assure you of our commitment in uniting and assisting our fellow citizens and trust this exceptional commitment seen from our leadership will continue post this crisis to build our country.

For more information kindly email [kzn@minara.org.za](mailto:kzn@minara.org.za)

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President

Minara Chamber of Commerce