



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN: BANKING SECTOR REGULATIONS FACT SHEET

We are ensuring the banking sector functions effectively through the disaster period.

- The regulations enable the banking sector to minimise the negative impact of COVID-19 on business and private customers.
- It allows bankers to work together to manage the banking infrastructure, including the payment infrastructure, ATMs and branches.
- It exempts the sector from Sections 4 and 5 of the Competition Act, which prohibits collusion, for the sole purpose of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Banks, Banking Association of South Africa and Payments Association of South Africa must keep written records of any agreements within the exemptions.
- Members of the public are urged to contact the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition on 0861 843 384 or on contactus@thedti.gov.za

The regulations allow for the continued operation of the payment system during the COVID-19 national disaster.

- It allows for agreements or practices with the sole purpose of ensuring essential payment systems continue.
- These agreements are limited to the development of industry monitoring, operational policies and contingency plans.
- Banks must work to ensure the continued availability of bank notes to ATMs, branches and businesses.
- The provision of essential ATM, branch and corporate banking services and the electronic payments systems must continue.

The regulations allow the banking sector to work together to support clients in financial distress.

- Bankers are permitted to develop measures on the management of debtors and extension of credit during the COVID-19 national disaster.
- These can include payment holidays and debt relief for business and individual debtors subjected to financial stress.
- It allows the sector to work together on limiting asset repossessions of business and individual debtors who are in financial stress.
- It focuses on the extension of credit lines to individuals and businesses subject to financial stress.