



## FURNITURE BARGAINING COUNCIL

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### **CIRCULAR 09/20**

#### **TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES**

#### **COVID-19 – APPLYING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND BENEFITS**

The Council has recently communicated to the Department of Employment and Labour by different means in relation to the manner in which the Council can possibly participate and assist the Department with the UIF payments of the national disaster benefit through the Corona Virus Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (COVID19TERS).

At this stage the Council has had very little feedback from the Department of Employment and Labour. This raises the concern that applications may be delayed resulting in employees being without money for a longer period. The Council is in addition now trying to communicate with the UIF directly in an attempt to promote the payment of applicable UIF-benefits. In the event that the Council obtains any information in this regard, it will notify the Industry accordingly.

In the interim, Council therefore urges all Employers who have enforced the prescribed lockdown as regulated, to go ahead without any delay to apply directly to the UIF or the Department of Employment and Labour for the available UIF assistance for employees.

Please note that all the required information to claim for the special UIF disaster relief, can be found on the websites of both the Furniture Bargaining Council ([www.furnbed.co.za](http://www.furnbed.co.za)) and FBUMA ([www.fbuma.co.za](http://www.fbuma.co.za)). In order to simplify and streamline the application process, the Department of Employment and Labour have also dedicated a mailbox: [covid19ters@labour.gov.za](mailto:covid19ters@labour.gov.za) to process your applications. Employers are advised to utilise this dedicated mailbox (send an e-mail to [covid19ters@labour.gov.za](mailto:covid19ters@labour.gov.za)) as an automatic reply will provide employers with the necessary documentation to be completed, as well as the process to be followed for submissions.

**Kindly ensure that all the provisions of this Circular are complied with. Please contact the Council's Inspectorate Department should you require any additional information or require clarity on any matter in this Circular.**

**Please do not contact any junior staff members of the Council for any additional information or clarity regarding this Circular.**

**A COPY OF THIS CIRCULAR MUST BE DISPLAYED ON YOUR ESTABLISHMENT'S NOTICE BOARD**