



## FURNITURE BARGAINING COUNCIL

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### CIRCULAR 08/20

### TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES

#### COVID-19 - UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND BENEFITS

The Minister of Employment and Labour has announced additional measures which the Department of Employment and Labour (DOEL) has put in place under the current extraordinary circumstances, relating to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) and its impact on UIF contributors.

The Unemployment Insurance Fund may now assist affected employees with a new “National Disaster Benefit” in addition to the existing UIF-benefits. The new national disaster benefit is payable from a newly established scheme known as the “Corona Virus Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme (COVID19TERS)”.

In line with the above, the Furniture Bargaining Council advises that all employers who have enforced lockdown as regulated, to apply to the DOEL for the available assistance to them and their employees.

Please note that all the required forms to claim for the special UIF disaster relief, can be found on the websites of the Furniture Bargaining Council ([www.furnbed.co.za](http://www.furnbed.co.za)) and FBUMA ([www.fbuma.co.za](http://www.fbuma.co.za)). The DOEL have also dedicated a mailbox namely **[covid19ters@labour.gov.za](mailto:covid19ters@labour.gov.za)** to process your applications.

It further serves to note that the Council has been in discussions with the DOEL and is currently awaiting response from the DOEL with detailed guidelines to possibly assist them with the distribution of payments in terms of this scheme. You will immediately be advised of any progress made in this regard. In the interim you are advised to proceed with your claims directly to the DOEL as suggested above.

It is reiterated that establishments must ensure that their contact person/s are available both telephonically and/or via email during office hours, in the event that the DOEL resolves to request assistance from the Council in this regard during the lockdown and the Council needs to contact you accordingly.

**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**