

South African Furniture Initiative Digital Newsletter – 31 March 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a nation-wide lockdown for 21 days with effect from midnight on Thursday, 26th March 2020.

The lockdown prohibits citizens in non-essential trades from leaving their homes and we recognise that this decision will have a significant impact on the economy and businesses. Since this includes the Furniture Industry, SAFI and its staff once again pledge commitment to our promised support across the furniture value chain, and we will communicate opportunities and support available to individuals who, and companies which, have suffered as a direct result of the COVID-19 virus. We will have regular updates in this regard on our social media platforms.

We will also take into consideration how a global event like this can influence the findings of the Furniture Industry Master Plan and update it accordingly. SAFI would like to express our support and commitment to “flatten the curve” in order to save lives during this 21 day lockdown and the months that lie ahead and we urge you to do the same.

As from Thursday 26th March 2020 all SAFI staff will be working from home with access to their e-mails during the lockdown period, so there will be no interruption in e-mail communications and should you need to give us a call, you can use this number (011) 888-0655. Contact details are on our website <http://furniture.org.za/contact.php>

Meanwhile SAFI members will receive updated information to consider for funding from government. We attach the DSBD and UIF documents which outlines the assistance that will be granted to businesses.

In this very fluid time, where changes can happen within hours, we are looking at ways to further support and offer value to you, our members; please note the following resources are available to you:

- All South Africans get data-free access to the official coronavirus website - <https://coronavirus.datafree.co/>
- Let's care for each other – prohibition of price hikes related to COVID-19 and limit to essential items purchase per person see the Consumer and Customer Protection put in place by Minister Ebrahim Patel. [Click here](#)
- Government is coming to the assistance of distressed companies amid the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#)

Please visit our website at <http://furniture.org.za/> for more information.

We trust that you, your staff and families will keep safe during this challenging time. Let us work together and overcome this situation and may God be with us all.

Warm regards

Bernadette Isaacs



SAFI AND THE DTI COMPLETE FURNITURE INDUSTRY MASTER PLAN ROADSHOW



The consultative roadshow where furniture manufacturers and stakeholders met across South Africa in preparation for its Furniture Industry Master Plan (FIMP), was completed in early February 2020. The inputs received are currently being compiled into a comprehensive feedback document on which the final FIMP will be based.

“By completing our national roadshow so early in the year, we have kept our promise of following a very aggressive timeline and to expedite the creation of an industry master plan,” Bernadette Isaacs, Managing Director of SAFI recently said.

“We are particularly proud of the fact that our roadshow included previously underserved areas such as Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape, and it managed to attract manufacturers of all sizes, as well as suppliers and other role players.”

According to Isaacs, the diverse nature of the

industry posed a challenge to the team of FIMP consultants collecting comprehensive feedback from a representative section of the industry. “At the same time, it means that any positive results from the implementation of the FIMP will impact a very large group of manufacturers and their employees,” she said.

It is expected that even a marginal improvement in the turnover of over 2 200 manufacturers will have a positive economic impact, leading to a hike in employment, investment and manufacturing output.

Following the directives of the President on 15 and 23 March 2020 on the COVID-19 pandemic, we are proud that we as a country are coming together to care for each other. We will also take into consideration how a global event like this can influence the findings of the Furniture Industry Master Plan and update it accordingly.



DRAFT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL

COMMENTS BEFORE 31 MAY 2020

The draft Public Procurement Bill was recently published, and National Treasury issued a call for public comments on the bill. The deadline for accepting comments is 31 May 2020.

In a nutshell, the proposed bill aims to be a single regulatory framework for public procurement to eliminate the fragmentation of the current system, with a host of laws being applicable to national, provincial and local government. It will try to consolidate all supply management instructions issued by Treasury to assist both local and international partners, who intend to do business with the government. The draft bill establishes the procurement authority to regulate and promote Section 217 of the Constitution across government. Part of the proposed legislation will require anyone who receives a tender of above R30 million to sub-contract a minimum of 30% of the value of the contract to SMMEs that are at least 51% black owned.

In order to submit comments, the draft Public Procurement Bill 2020 is available at: http://www.treasury.gov.za/legislation/draft_bills/default.aspx

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DEADLINE FOR FP&M SETA GRANTS

The closing date for mandatory and discretionary grant applications from the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing (FP&M) SETA is set for midnight on 30 April 2020. Eligible organisations must submit their applications online via the FP&M SETA indicium system. User manuals and detailed instructions are available at https://www.fpmseta.org.za/downloads/FPM_Notice_to_Stakeholders_Covic_19.pdf. This follows on the back of a number of workshops that were held countrywide where grant discussion guidelines and criteria, as well as workplace skills planning was covered.



SOUTH AFRICAN UNITED BUSINESS CONFEDERATION MEDIA LAUNCH

The South African United Business Confederation (SAUBC) recently presented its cause at a media launch to state its objectives as a comprehensive economic organisation that will contribute to the self-sustained development of the South African economy and the improvement of the lives of citizens. By interacting with export councils, industry associations, joint action groups and corporations, as well as government and communities that support them, the SAUBC supports long-term economic growth.

SAFI is an associate partner and serves on the SAUBC board, which provides benefits like participation in policy formulation in Parliament, participation in international relations activities and research capacity. Visit <https://saubc.org> to get a comprehensive overview of what the SAUBC does and stands for.

ENTRIES NOW OPEN

Entries for the Furniture Design Competition 2020/2021 are now open.

We have partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti), Proudly South African, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Industry Stakeholders to bring you the Furniture Design Competition 2020/2021! If you are a proactive, critical thinker and you realise the value of furniture design as an economical nation builder and change agent, your challenge is to create a range of furniture that is truly Proudly South African.

Entries close on the 31 August 2020 and are open to professional designers and/or manufacturers and design students. The brief, entry form, criteria and list of prizes are available at: <https://www.thedti.gov.za/furnituredesigncompetition.jsp>

**THINK
OUTSIDE
THE
BOX**



LEARN TO EARN

For the past 30 years, Learn to Earn, an NGO, has trained many unemployed people in various courses, including graphic design bridging, sewing and woodwork, as well as coffee brewers at its barista academy. Currently Learn to Earn is looking for job shadowing opportunities for its woodworking students to spend two weeks at small and medium furniture manufacturers in the southern and northern suburbs of Cape Town. Have a look at the website <https://www.learntoearn.org.za> and make a difference in the lives of these students. You can contact Herman van Boom at khayeww@learntoearn.org.za or (021) 361-5972 for more information.

WIN A SMARTPHONE WHILE YOUR BUSINESS BENEFITS

Win 1 of 5 smartphones by simply downloading the Jump App, log into your account and enter. The Western Cape Provincial Government recently launched the Jump App after two years of extensive research, engagement and testing. Jump was developed to support and empower businesses, while allowing entrepreneurs to load events, access key services and support, finding new opportunities, mentors, partners and funders. You can also contact entrepreneurs in your area, get a business health check-up, get business how-to guides and listen to advice from experts. Contact Angela Abbott, Deputy Director: Connected Business at the Western Cape Government, for digital adoption training or if you need more information, you can email her at: angela.abbott@westerncape.gov.za.



jump
for entrepreneurs



GOOD BRANDS, GREAT PLACES, HIGHER DEMAND

As always, our friends at BrandKconnect took good brands to great places by showcasing South African Design at the Design Dubai Week earlier this year. Products from iconic local brands like Indigenus Planters, Villa Africa and Houtlander were on display, creating quite a buzz in the Middle-East. BrandKconnect's strategy of building brands through connectivity and connecting the dots between local and international design, proved to be successful with an increase in interest and demand for SA designed and manufactured products. Visit www.brandkconnect.co.za, www.houtlander.co.za, www.indigenus.co.za and www.villafrica.co to learn more about these SAFI members and partners.



SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS TO AFRICA AND BEYOND

The Department of Trade and Industry (dti) will lead a trade mission to the 2nd Intra-African Trade Fair 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda from 1 to 7 September 2020. The Intra-African Trade Fair is said to provide a strategic platform to access integrated African markets of over one billion people with a GDP of US\$2.5 trillion.

Members of SAFI are invited to submit National Pavilion application forms and should they qualify, will receive support from the dti in the form of exhibition and booth rental costs, freight forwarding display material, as well as limited air travel and daily subsistence allowance.

To find out how to apply and get a list of the sectors the Trade Fair will focus on, you can visit:

http://www.thedti.gov.za/trade_investment/emia.jsp

The deadline for applications is 2 April 2020.

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION

Exporting locally manufactured goods is an exciting, but also daunting opportunity for any business. Fortunately, our SAFI members can benefit from the expertise and experience of our valued partners, getting information in accessing export-developing programmes, available funding, trade agreements and export workshops and training. For assistance and support please contact your regional Trade and investment agency. Visit our website on: <http://furnitureza.org.za/exports.php> for more information on the Gauteng Growth and Development Agency, trade and Investment KZN and Wesgro.



MORE THAN R76 BILLION WENT TO LOCAL MANUFACTURERS IN THE PAST DECADE

In a recent statement, the Chief Director of Industrial Procurement at the dti, Dr Tebogo Makube, said that the implementation of the local content policy since 2011 has to date assisted in directing R76 billion worth of public contracts to South African manufacturers. Makube explained that this policy plays a valuable role to ensure support for local industrial development in the country.

On the way forward, Makube reported that the dti has made R20 million available over the medium term to the South African Bureau of Standards to continue with the local content verification. Government is also looking at other options to strengthen local content verification processes.

The Department is also working with Proudly South Africa (PSA), through the tender monitoring system, to monitor tenders in line with the local content requirements. This includes working with the office of the Auditor-General to ensure that tenders, which are designated for local content and production, are audited. Dr Makube welcomed the gazetting of the Public Procurement Bill, which creates an opportunity to strengthen compliance on local content and the leveraging of public procurement to support transformation, economic and industrial development.



South African
Furniture Initiative



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