

# Cabinet Statement

## VIRTUAL CABINET MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2020

### ISSUES IN THE ENVIRONMENT

#### ■ Update on the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

- In his address to the nation on Wednesday, 16 September 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the move to Alert Level 1 of the national lockdown with effect from Monday, 21 September 2020.

This has further opened up more economic activities in the country, which will contribute immensely to rebuilding the economy, restoring growth and creating much-needed jobs.

- The announcements made by the President were favourably welcomed by all sectors of the South African society – including labour, business, civil society and political formations.

- The national state of disaster regulations which give effect to the announcements by the President, were gazetted on Friday, 18 September 2020. The new regulations eased certain restrictions implemented since March 2020 to prevent the spread of the virus. They include, amongst others,

- ✓ the permissible number of people at public gatherings, events and funerals,
- ✓ as well as the opening of borders for travel within Africa and internationally, effective from 1 October 2020.

- Cabinet has encouraged further engagement with the traditional leadership to address issues related to initiation schools and practices, which are still prohibited during Alert Level 1.

- More information on the gazetted regulations is accessible on the government website ([www.gov.za](http://www.gov.za)).

- Cabinet urges all people in South Africa to continue observing the COVID-19 health protocols such as maintaining social distancing, wearing a mask in public and regularly washing hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

- Cabinet also encourages the public to download the COVID Alert mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store. The app – which has been zero-rated by mobile networks and can be downloaded without any data costs – will improve contact