

**EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

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Dear Customs and Excise client

**IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS ON TRADE**

During President Cyril Ramaphosa's address to the nation on Sunday night he declared a state of disaster and announced various measures to address the threat of the coronavirus.

This included the closure of various ports of entry, including two sea ports and 35 land ports, as of 16 March 2020. The sea ports are Mossel Bay and Saldanha Bay, while the land borders are Alexander Bay, Sendelingsdrift, Onseepkans, McCarthys Rest, Middelpunt, Rietfontein, Gemsbok; Twee Rivieren; Bray; Mokopong; Mokghibistadt; Swartkopfontein; Derdepoort; Stockpoort; Platjan; Pondrift; Zanzibar; Pafuri; Giriyyondo; Emahlatini; Bothashoop; Waverley; Nerston; Josefsdal; Kosi Bay; Onverwacht; Sani Pass; Boesmansnek; Tellebridge; Ongeluksnek; Ramatsiliso; Mononsthapass; Peka Bridge; Makhaleng and Sefaphusgate.

Of the above land borders, the only commercial port of entry is Nerston on the border of eSwatini. These closures will therefore have a limited impact on trade, which will continue as usual at all the other ports of entry. In the case of Nerston, associations are asked to inform their members to use alternative border posts, such as Mahamba (99km south) or Oshoek (111km north).

The safety of staff and clients is critical to SARS and we would therefore encourage clients to restrict their face-to-face contact with Customs officers – as part of the President's message for greater social distancing. Clients should use digital channels, such as emailing or calling the SARS Contact Centre.

We recently introduced various safety measures at Customs offices and are looking at additional measures in due course. Clients will be kept informed of any new developments in this regard.

Sincerely



**BEYERS THERON**  
**HEAD: CUSTOMS BORDER OPERATIONS**