

	<p style="text-align: center;">NEDLAC COMMUNITY CONSTITUENCY</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">SAYC - FSCC - WNC - DPSA - SANACO - SANCO</p>	<p>OFFICE ADMINISTRATION Nedlac House 14a Jellicoe Avenue Rosebank, 2196 Johannesburg</p> <p>Tel : 011 328 4200</p> <p>Fax : 011 447 6053 / 2089 Email : Rejoyce@nedlac.org.za</p>
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MEDIA STATEMENT:

Civil society is essential in the fight against Covid-19

The Community Constituency of the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) welcomes the government's swift response and decisive action on the Covid-19 pandemic.

We are encouraged by the way South Africans are complying with the lockdown regulations. Strict adherence to these regulations will ensure the reduction of domestic transmissions and further flatten the curve. We call on citizens to comply with the 21 days of lockdown and we call on government and business to fulfill the commitments made so that we can see concrete action and results.

As the Community Constituency of NEDLAC, we are establishing a Civil Society Command Centre through the NEDLAC structures that is open to all progressive civil society bodies. We aim to provide a hub of information and contacts for distribution and engagement through our members across the country. In addition, our team will have direct engagements with relevant government Ministers on issues that we pick up on the ground for urgent unblocking/addressing.

"Through this Command Centre, we are raising our hands to help with the distribution of supplies, readily available to mobilise people and to escalate challenges communities face to the relevant authorities," said Thulani Tshefuta, NEDLAC Community Constituency Overall Convenor.

Through our structures and networks we are receiving a variety of reports that include issues of non-compliance with certain regulations, as well as issues of hunger and lack of access to water and the presence and activities of the security machinery in our communities.

"It is essential that government maintain close and regular open communication with us to ensure that this rescue and recovery plan is not just one for the elite. While we recognise the importance of rescuing the economy, the declaration of Covid-9 as a National Disaster, it has not replaced the Constitution. Ordinary South Africans have an overarching right to dignity and to equality. At top priority should be maximum commitment to ensuring that every person has enough to eat and sufficient sanitation to enable us to beat this, together," concluded Tshefuta.

We, therefore, urge government to keep us updated on plans such as the delivery of water, health and hygiene in order for community leaders to manage community expectations and thereby minimise the need for movement by citizens.

"In particular, workers in the informal economy are waiting anxiously to know the details of the cash income grant which will support their livelihoods while they stay in lockdown instead of going out to work, which they heard the President announce in his statement on the 21-day lockdown" says Pat Horn from Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organising

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The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front

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