

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

To whom it may concern

DECISION I.T.O. SECTION 47C OF NEMA TO EXTEND THE TIMEFRAMES APPLICABLE IN TERMS OF NEMA AND THE EIA REGULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 NATION-WIDE 21-DAY LOCKDOWN PERIOD

The declaration of a National State of Disaster on 15 March 2020¹ as well as well the Nation-Wide 21-Day Lockdown for the period 27 March 2020 to 16 April 2020² refer.

1. Section 47C of the of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) states:

47C. Extension of time periods

The Minister or an MEC may extend, or condone a failure by a person to comply with, a period in terms of this Act or a specific environmental management Act, except a period which binds the Minister or MEC.

- 2. NEMA defines "this Act" as "includes the schedules, and regulations and any notice issued under the Act".
- 3. Due to the special circumstances caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Nation-Wide 21-Day Lockdown period, I hereby, in terms of Section 47C of NEMA in terms of all matters for which I am the Competent Authority, extend all timeframes in terms of NEMA and the EIA Regulations for actions and processes affected by the 21-Day Lockdown period by two months effective from (and including) 27 March 2020 to (and including) 26 May 2020.

(Available at: http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/43096 15-3 CoOperativeGovTradAff.pdf)

¹ Government Gazette No. 43096 of 15 March 2020 refers.

² The Statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa on Escalation of Measures to Combat COVID-19 Epidemic of 23 March 2020 refers. (Available at: http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/speeches/statement-president-cyril-ramaphosa-escalation-measures-combat-covid-19-epidemic%2C-union)

- 4. The two months extension does not apply to actions related to decisions issued after the 21-Day Lockdown period.
- 5. No extension will not apply to matters related to Section 28, 30 and 31 of NEMA.

Yours sincerely,

Anton Bredell

MINISTER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNIG

Date: 26/3/2020