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TERS Payment status: <https://uifecc.labour.gov.za/covid19/paymentStatusJsp>

16.09.2020

Dear Employer / Statutory Body / Bargaining Council / Council

## **RE: UIF COVID19 TERS UPDATE – ELIGIBILITY TO CLAIM**

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This communication is to guide Users to avoid potential problems related to application and consideration of eligibility for Covid19 TERS benefits payments.

It has come to the attention of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) that there may still be misunderstanding about whether employees who have worked during lockdown periods are entitled to COVID-19 TERS benefits.

We remind Users that the intention of the COVID-19 TERS has always been to assist employees who have lost income because of COVID-19 and the regulations limiting economic activity during the different lockdown levels.

Eligibility for benefits is *limited* to employees whose normal monthly remuneration has been reduced because they have:

- (a) not been able to work at all, or
- (b) worked short-time or reduced hours, or
- (c) suffered a temporary salary reduction related to the operational requirements of the employer.

Users are directed to read the Explanatory Note circulated with the most recently published Direction. For ease of reference it is attached again herewith.

**NOTE: COVID-19 TERS is not intended to subsidize the payroll of an Employer.**

This means that an Employee who has received their full salary/wages for working during any lockdown period is not entitled to the COVID-19 TERS Benefit. Users are reminded however, that any advances or loans paid by Employers to Employees (who did not work their normal hours) is not considered as part of salary/wages and should not be declared during the application process.

**NOTE: COVID-19 TERS is not intended to supplement an Employee's income.**

Similarly, Employees are not entitled to receive any COVID-19 TERS benefit payment (or part thereof) that would mean they took home more than their usual monthly salary. As a result, any overpayment made by UIF must be refunded to the UIF within the prescribed timeframes set out in the MOA. If an overpayment is found to have been made, and not refunded, the UIF has the right to recover this amount.

Users are reminded that the UIF will conduct audits to ensure that all applications made, and payments received, were compliant with the Directions.

Regards  
Acting Unemployment Insurance Commissioner