

24 March 2020

PRESS STATEMENT

CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA (CGCSA) WELCOMES GOVERNMENT DECISION TO ENSURE UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL GOOD AND NON-FOOD PRODUCTS DURING SHUTDOWN

The Consumer Goods Council of South Africa (CGCSA) has welcomed the decision by the Government to ensure there will be uninterrupted supply by the food and beverages and non-foods products manufacturers, wholesalers/retailers, quick service restaurants as well as their suppliers during the 21-day national shutdown announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 23 March 2020.

This follows the request by CGCSA, through the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), to ensure that the food and beverages production, distribution and retail sectors are not affected by the shutdown. CGCSA said it is important that during the shutdown, consumers should still be assured of their ability to buy food, beverages and other non-food essentials they require during this period.

Importantly, CGCSA said the CEOs of the major retailers in South Africa on 19 March 2020 committed to the Government – and the nation – to ensure that there will be no disruption to supplies of particularly in-demand food and beverages and non-food products during the turn

CONSUMER GOODS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Block D | Pinmill Farm | 164 Katherine Street | Barlow Park | Sandton | Johannesburg | 2148
Tel: +27 (0)86 124 2000 | Fax: +27 (0)86 685 2751 | Web: www.cgcsa.co.za
VAT No 4510 10 11 34 | Reg No 1982/006710/08

DIRECTORS

G Ackerman Co-Chairman - Chairman, Pick n Pay Stores Ltd | **J Vorster** Co-Chairman - Chief Executive Officer, Clover | **G Mangozhe** Chief Executive Officer, CGCSA | **D Smollan** Chairman, Smollan Holdings | **G Kirk** Chief Executive Officer, Exclusive Books | **HA Joubert** General Manager, Mars Multisales Southern Africa | **S Sonn** Managing Director, Woolworths Foods SA | **C Maponya** Chief Executive Officer, Maponya Group | **P Spies** Chief Growth Officer, Tiger Brands | **R Behrens** Financial Executive, Tiger Brands | **M Neethling** Business Executive: Groceries, Pioneer Foods | **B Botten** Divisional Managing Director, SPAR Southrand | **R Rushton** Managing Director, Distell | **D North** Group Executive - Strategy and Corporate Affairs Pick n Pay Stores | **Tony Da Fonseca** Chairperson, FASA | **Luc-Olivier Marquet** Chief Executive Officer, Unilever | **B Olierhoek** Chairman & Managing Director Nestlé (South Africa) (Pty) Limited | **B Pietracchi** BU President Coca-Cola | **G Antoine** Country Manager L'Oréal | **N Kalla** Managing Director Amka Products(Pty) Limited

period of National State of National Disaster which has now been upgraded to national shutdown.

They also committed to continue to maintain fair and competitive pricing and reiterated that there was no need for panic buying as there are adequate measures which have been put in place to ensure constant supply and availability of products in supermarkets and food stores during the shutdown and beyond.

Members of CGCSA have meanwhile as a collective committed to supporting the Government in its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 by introducing unprecedented measures to achieve this, including ensuring that those who can work from home do so.

Finally, CGCSA will continue to work closely with relevant Government departments to further mitigate any risks related to COVID-19 and also share best practices amongst industries, as part of its contribution to saving lives which remains the key outcome and priority for all in South Africa.

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