



The health and well-being of our staff, their families and the communities in which we operate are of the utmost importance to Media24 in this unprecedented and difficult time. We have been responding quickly to the evolving Covid-19 pandemic to ensure we safeguard our people, maintain our ability to serve our customers, and protect our businesses for the long term.

In addition to introducing enhanced health and other safety measures to protect our staff, visitors to our premises and our customers and clients, we implemented a work-from-home policy for all staff who could do so (from 19 March) and activated our updated business continuity plans.

Media24 fully supports President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement (23 March 2020) of a total lockdown – effective from midnight on 26 March for initially 21 days, and then extended on 12 April for a further two weeks until 30 April. This is a brave effort to contain and manage the spread of the virus and protect the people of South Africa. At the same time, we sincerely welcome government's decision to include the majority of media formats as essential services that will be allowed to continue operations during the national lockdown.

As the leading media company in South Africa, we consider it our responsibility and moral obligation to publish accurate information and keep the public informed. Of equal importance, we will continue to contribute to the spirit of solidarity, compassion and positivity by also telling stories of hope.

In keeping with this mission, our digital news operations will continue with its 24/7 news coverage. We will also continue to publish a number of our print newspapers and magazines for as long as it is practical to do so, but we have had to reduce the distribution footprint to comply with regulations.

With the exception of our warehousing and distribution operations, all other premises are closed during the lockdown and the journalists in the field are the only other staff not working from home. We have implemented additional safety measures and temperature screenings at Media24's warehousing and distribution facilities that remain open, to keep our own people and our customers safe. In addition, enhanced safety measures apply for our journalists working in the field, and our distribution staff will adhere to the measures implemented by our retail partners.

All our own staff, as well as contracted couriers, who work in the field will carry the required letters of authority and/or accreditation cards (journalists).

Media24 has pledged a contribution of R1m to the national Solidarity Response Fund.

Ishmet Davidson  
Chief executive: Media24 group