



COVID-19

Construction industry medical scheme at the ready to support sector and its employees.

7 April 2020 | Sunninghill |
Johannesburg

**PREMIER HEALTH
BENEFITS
PROVIDE
INVALUABLE
HEALTHCARE
LIFELINE IN THIS
TIME OF CRISIS**

Covid-19 Claims

PRINCIPAL OFFICER ASSURES MEMBERS

“We want to provide members and their employers in the building, construction and engineering sectors with the assurance that BCIMA will pay claims for COVID-19, as per the normal scheme rules and benefits,”

Tuesday, 7 April 2020, “In this time of health crisis, President Ramphosa’s powerful call for common action has galvanised the nation to unite in the fight against the spread of the novel corona virus.

Government has inspired South Africans of all socio-economic groups and backgrounds to stand united and to work together to overcome the COVID-19 challenge.”“We want to provide members and their employers in the building, construction and engineering sectors with the assurance that BCIMA will pay claims for COVID-19, as per the normal scheme rules and benefits,” said Phumelele Makatini, chief executive officer and principal officer of the Building and Construction Industry Medical Aid Fund (BCIMA).

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BCIMA, which was established more than fifty years ago to provide effective, value-for-money medical cover for employees in the building, construction and civil engineering sector not only has a proud record but is one of South Africa's financially strongest schemes. Ms Makatini explained that it is "now more important than ever" for those who work within the building, construction and civil engineering sectors to be able to access the medical care that they may need in the coming weeks.

Her clarion call to employers is to safeguard their employees, particularly those who work on contract, to ensure that they can access healthcare in their time of need. "Now is definitely not the time to leave your employees and their families out in the cold and uncovered – to the contrary, this is the perfect time to go the extra mile for your workforce to ensure that they remain healthy and are ready to return to work once we have weathered the storm.



"Once business returns to normality, which it will, you will need your experienced stalwarts and many more capable pairs of hands as it will be all hands on deck to catch up on productive time that has been lost. I firmly believe that our great quest will be to turn the South African economy around together.

"BCIMA has historically done more than any other private medical scheme in South Africa to broaden access to healthcare and has made appreciable inroads in terms of extending highly flexible medical scheme protection to low-cost employees and their beneficiaries." "Because the scheme is focused on finding effective and innovative healthcare solutions for employers and their employees, we have a profound understanding of the sector and its people, as well as their needs, we are better placed than any other medical scheme to provide



the necessary support to those workers within the industry during this unprecedented health crisis,” noted Ms Makatini. With BCIMA, members are not governed by network restrictions but are instead afforded freedom of choice in selecting healthcare service providers across the board, from private hospitals to traditional healers and homeopaths. The medical scheme offers several one-of-a-kind benefits including a lifetime membership number and the ability to be covered only for the duration of a contract, and benefits tailored to meet the needs of employees who are paid hourly rates. Only the main member pays a contribution while other registered family members are covered for free with contributions based on income. “Given the successes of BCIMA in bringing quality healthcare to employees in the low-cost healthcare market, we believe that the scheme’s expertise and insight makes it the ideal partner to the sector, and its employees, particularly at this critical point in our history,” she concludes.



Ms. Phumelele Makatini, CEO & Principal Officer