

We, the tenants of [insert address] have decided to keep our May rent. This is not a decision we made lightly, but we see it as the only reasonable and responsible course of action in the present circumstances.

This is a time of crisis, and as I am sure you are aware, the president of South Africa declared a state of disaster on the 15 March 2020 in response to the pandemic COVID-19 has become. The number of cases testing positive has still continued to rise by the day even through this lockdown, and there is no end to this virus in sight. As a result, countless businesses have been forced to stop operations and millions of people in this country have been left without a job and without income for an indeterminate amount of time. Schools have stopped operating throughout the country as well, and our children are staying at home to prevent the spread of the virus.

As of Thursday 26 March 2020, Justice Minister Ronald Lamola took unprecedented action and announced a moratorium on all evictions during the lockdown:

*“All evictions and executions of attachment orders, both movable and immovable, including the removal of movable assets and sales in executions is suspended with immediate effect for the duration of the lockdown.”*

Following this overwhelming situation, we hope to appeal to your sense of community and humanity. Many of us are fearful for our health, let alone our livelihood.

Because of the menacing health situation produced by this pandemic, we are writing to ask you to cancel rent payments for the duration of this lockdown. This letter is to inform you that instead of deferring our rent payments for lockdown, we would prefer that our rent payments be cancelled until we are able to go back to work and earn an income. We wish, like you do, for things to go back to normal so that we are once again mutually beneficial to each other. We understand that you may have a bond and that our rent may be the sole source of income for you, but we would encourage you to look into the bond holidays and relief programs offered by your bank (we've listed the details below). We don't know when this lockdown is going to end, and can not with good conscience pay our rent before eating and providing the essentials for ourselves in this scary time.

Signed,