

Unit 14  
The Quarter Centre  
1 Stewart Drive  
Ballito Business Park

18 March 2020

iLembe District Municipality Mayor and Municipal Manager  
KwaDukuza Local Municipality Mayor and Municipal Manager  
Mandeni Local Municipality Mayor and Municipal Manager  
Maphumulo Local Municipality and Municipal Manager  
Ndwedwe Local Municipality and Municipal Manager

PER EMAIL

Dear Mayors and MMs

### **COVID-19 IN ILEMBE: CALL FOR A CONSIDERED AND COLLABORATIVE RESPONSE**

The Covid-19 pandemic has placed iLembe-based businesses, and as a result our regional economy, in uncharted territory.

President Ramaphosa, in his declaration of the pandemic as a national disaster, called for swift action, collectively and with purpose. The President also emphasised that the response, to this common threat and emergency, demand cooperation, collaboration and common action.

The pandemic is a health crisis, with a significant economic impact – community fear relates to both the infection and the potential impact on livelihoods. Similarly, health and economic interventions demand a considered and appropriate response, a response that acknowledges the critical role of the private sector and vital input from the business sector. The Executive and Management of the iLembe Chamber will avail themselves to participate in the shaping of any such common actions and responses.

The Chamber, as a collective, and its individual for-profit and not-for-profit members have, and will continue to, put in place measures aimed at protecting and reassuring employees and consumers alike, and navigating business continuity in a responsible manner. It is however a burden that cannot be maintained by the private sector on its own.

The pandemic has the potential to expose our country's health, financial, economic and political vulnerability. The iLembe business community is committed to responsibly minimising its impact on jobs, incomes and business, and is looking forward to collaborating with all our social partners in this collective effort demanded.



Andy Horton  
President iLembe Chamber of Commerce

Cc iLembe Chamber Executive Committee  
Isithebe Business Cluster Board  
Chairpersons of iLembe Chamber Board Standing Committees  
Board Chairperson and Precinct Manager Ballito UIP  
MEC and HOD KZN EDTEA  
Board Chairperson and CEO Trade and Investment KZN  
Board Chairperson and CEO Enterprise iLembe