

From: Diane Redelinghuys
Date: 09 April 2020 at 10:23:28 SAST
To: Bantu Holomisa
Subject: PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCKDOWN RULES

Good day General,

A few ideas.

1. Do not restrict goods that the essential stores are selling. I am referring to large supermarkets like Pick n pay, SPAR and Checkers, as well as pharmacies.

Reasons: What might not be essential for you, might be essential for me. As an example, toys are not allowed to be sold. Children are at home, parents are working from home, children need to be kept occupied. Chlorine for pools may be bought, but not testing kits. Egg spatulas are not being sold, etc. Rather unnecessary restrictions for an economy already under pressure.

However, a more important reason, the more sectors we keep going, for instance make up, perfume, toys etc, the better for the economy. More people will be working and earning an income. The sales of items must be restricted to those stores already deemed essential and already selling those products.

Ladies that are in essential services need access to make-up, nail polish etc.

Pies are allowed to be sold, but not hot prepared food. This is another loss of income for the industry and the chefs preparing that food is now out of a job. (Within supermarkets).

2. Online ordering of clothing should be permitted. We are entering winter and people need clothing. Especially growing children.

3. The ban of cigarette sales makes no sense. I am not a smoker and very anti smoking, however, I can see what the lack of cigarettes are doing to people. They are agitated, snappy, etc. Adding more stress to families already stressed out by the lockdown, fear of Covid19 and financial implication. Smokers are at greater risk yes, but stopping smoking now, is not going to make a difference to the outcome if they contract the virus. People are on edge, smokers now more so. Domestic violence is already a problem, imagine the irritation of a long time smoker forced to stop suddenly. Also, allowing licenced supermarkets currently trading to continue selling cigarettes, will boost the economy, increase taxes etc.

4. Most other countries have not stopped the sales of wine by those supermarkets already licenced to do so. Liquor stores and sales of spirits has been stopped for obvious reasons. The sudden withdrawal of alcohol from alcoholics, caused Delirium Tremens. The withdrawal is severe with a death rate of 1 in 20. Much higher than the death rate of Covid 19. Not everyone has access to medical treatment to combat the serious withdrawal effects of alcohol and there will be certain deaths because thereof. We have already been seeing patients that seeking medical attention for withdrawal symptoms. We cannot fill up hospital beds with alcoholics in desperate need of treatment right now. Let supermarkets continue selling wine. Restrict the trading hours during the week and prohibit sales after 13h00 on a Saturday.

5. The rules around street vendors should be made clear. If a vendor may sell food at a taxi rank, may a farmer try sell his produce from his bakkie next to the road?

Hunger is a terrible motivator for anarchy. We have to make a plan to keep as many people earning an income during lockdown as possible.

6. Strict measures should be taken against people discarding their used masks and gloves in parking lots and along the roads. That to me is the same as knowing you tested positive for Covid 19 and not staying indoors. Lots of positive, asymptomatic people out there. By discarding used gloves and masks next to their cars in parking lots or throwing them out of car windows, is exactly the same as spreading the virus intentionally. Cleaners are now exposed to those contaminated items.

7. More roadblocks in strategic places. Way too many cars on the road for no reason at all.

8. Shopping should be restricted to once a week per household. Some way of controlling that must be set in place. People going out to various shops daily, "just to get out of the house".

I do not envy our leaders at the moment. Decision making in a period like this, must be the hardest thing ever to do.

Keep well, General.

Diane