

GUIDELINES FOR RENT RELIEF ADMINISTERED BY THE LRA ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO (GoL).



Background

In April 2020, the Government of Lesotho made several pronouncements regarding relief measures intended to mitigate the impact of COVID – 19 induced national lockdown. The Rent Relief was amongst the measures promulgated to assist struggling businesses and LRA was tasked with a responsibility to administer the Rent Relief on behalf of the Government.

The Rent Relief Measures

The Rent support/subsidy will cover a period of one (1) month for commercial property tenants with lease agreements between themselves and commercial building owners/managers whose businesses were not operational during the national lockdown.

Exclusions

These guidelines exclude the following types of businesses:

- Residential property;
- Commercial property occupied by tenants who were operational during national lockdown;
- Tenants to LNDC property;
- Tenants to BEDCO property;
- Tenants to City Councils property;
- Tenants to Government property; and
- Any other property owners not in business of renting out commercial buildings.

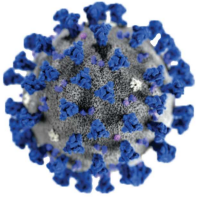
Eligibility

Whilst the rent relief is meant to assist businesses that are struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, not all businesses shall be eligible for the relief. Only businesses with the following characters shall qualify:

- Tax compliant businesses
- Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs).
- Businesses registered with the Ministry of Trade or any competent authority;
- Has a sub-lease agreement with Property Owner/Manager not less than 3 months old; and
- Businesses that are up to date with their rental payments.

Implementation

The businesses eligible for the rent relief will receive month of April 2020 rent. The LRA will pay rent directly to the property owner/manager on behalf of the eligible tenant.



GUIDELINES FOR RENT RELIEF ADMINISTERED BY THE LRA ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO (GoL).



Requirements for Accessing Rent Relief Measures

- Registration Form (accessible - LRA website www.lra.org.ls/forms/registration%20forms & LRA Service Centres) to be filled by commercial property owner/manager providing details of their property and information related to tenants.
- Duly filled Registration Form to be submitted to LRA through email info@lra.org.ls or to be hand delivered at any LRA Service Centre
- Payment Requisition Form (accessible -LRA Website www.lra.org.ls/forms/registration%20forms & LRA Service Centres) to be filled by tenants to initiate payment.
- Duly filled Payment Requisition Form to be submitted to the LRA through email info@lra.org.ls or to be hand delivered at any LRA Service Centre.
- Payment will not be processed without submission of Registration Form by Property Owner/Manager.

Processing of Rent Relief Claims

- Upon receipt of the Payment Requisition Form from the tenant, the LRA will issue receipt acknowledgment through an email and/or SMS within two (2) working days.
- If all requirements of a claim are met, payment will be made within seven (7) working days. A proof of payment will be sent to both a Tenant and a Property Owner/Manager.
- Payments will be prioritized in order of receipt of Payment Requisition Form; Forms received first will be paid out first.

For More Information:

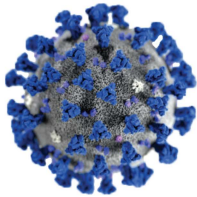
Since COVID – 19 still poses a serious threat, tenants and property owners/managers are urged to avoid physical contact at all cost but rather to contact LRA through these platforms:

- Online Chat on LRA website (www.lra.org.ls)
- Call Centre during normal working hours from Monday to Friday on the following call center numbers: (+266) 52215555 and (+266) 22235555.
- Email us at: info@lra.org.ls

On exceptional cases they can visit any LRA Service Centre to make enquiries and or to get the forms.

Disclaimer:

The LRA acts as an agent of the GoL, which remains the sole principal assuming all risks and responsibility for smooth implementation. Any disputes including litigation that may arise during and/or after implementation should be directed to the Ministry of Finance for resolution.



GUIDELINES FOR RENT RELIEF ADMINISTERED BY THE LRA ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO (GoL).



NB

Compliant Taxpayer

Taxpayer who is:

- 1) is registered for tax.
- 2) does not have any tax debt outstanding, excluding a tax debt that is -
 - a) the subject of a filed Objection awaiting determination or which the subject of pending Tax Appeal Proceedings; or
 - b) payable in terms of an Instalment Agreement entered into by the taxpayer with the LRA and the taxpayer has not defaulted on the terms of payment of the instalment agreement.
- 3) has no outstanding returns unless under an arrangement with LRA; or
- 4) has not been found guilty by the LRA of having committed tax or customs fraud during the past four years or smuggling of goods or abuse of the rules of origin to confer or disguise origin of goods

Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises

Businesses that have less than 50 employees and turnover of less than Five (5) million Maloti.