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Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## PATENT EXAMINATION BOARD

30 April 2020

Dear Students

We hope that you and your families are keeping well in these challenging times.

It is now clear that the Patent Examination Board will be unable to schedule contact lectures for the 2020 patent examinations. Even when the lockdown restrictions are relaxed to a point when people are allowed to attend lectures, it is likely that the Patent Examination Board will not be able to use the offices of the firms which usually host the PEB lectures, as these firms have a duty to minimise the risks to the health of their employees.

The lectures for the 2020 patent examinations will therefore need to be held online, such as by way of Zoom or other online meeting platforms. To enable the Patent Examination Board to understand your capacity to participate in online lectures, please answer the following questions and send your response by return email to the PEB Secretariat:

	Yes / No
Do you have access to a computer, tablet, cell phone or other device on which you will be able to participate in online lectures?	
Do you have an internet connection and data which will enable you to participate in online lectures?	
If you were given the option, would you prefer to defer your registration for the patent examinations until 2021?	
Are there any comments that you would like to make?	

**Chairperson** : Ms Sandra Clelland  
**Members** : Ms Shanaaz Mahomed, Mr Paul Sibisi, Mr Johnny Fiandeiro, Mr Trod Lehong  
**Secretariat** : Ms Sheperd Khanyisa Chauke



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The examinations are currently scheduled for July, and it is likely that they will need to be re-scheduled for later in the year, and the format of these examinations may need to be revised.

We look forward to receiving your response by **5 May 2020**.

We will communicate the commencement of online lectures and further information about the examinations to you shortly.

Yours sincerely  
Sandra Clelland  
Chairperson: Patent Examination Board

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