

Proudly SA launches marketplace for locally-made face masks

To help South African businesses source locally-made fabric face masks and to enable the country's clothing and textile sector to retain jobs, a [dedicated B2B marketplace portal](#) has gone live today on the Proudly South African website.



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The online marketplace links corporate buyers with local producers of masks. Proudly SA has been working on the site over the past week.

“This initiative is an effort to support a sector of our economy that is able to meet the current pressing demand for face masks, which we have been called on to wear in order to support government’s efforts to combat the spread of Covid-19. It is imperative that we support our local businesses, who have the capacity to produce sufficient masks to meet the country’s needs,” said Proudly SA CEO Eustace Mashimbye.

Following the President’s announcement on 23 April that all passengers travelling on public transport will be required to wear a mask and the recommendation that everyone else wear a non-medical mask outside their homes, the portal will ensure that reliable sources of locally-made masks are easily available.



Everybody should wear a face mask

14 Apr 2020



Supporting clothing and textile industry jobs

The concept of the portal arose from discussions with the SA Clothing and Textile Workers’ Union (SACTWU), the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and The Manufacturing Circle around steps that could be taken to align initiatives underway in the clothing and textile manufacturing industry, with the needs of the public and businesses.

These include the collective agreement at the clothing bargaining council to galvanise the industry to produce more PPE items.

All companies listed on the site have confirmed with the clothing bargaining council that they are genuine manufacturers producing locally made fabric masks, supporting local jobs and operating under conditions that promote the health and safety of workers, among other things.



Polo manufactures 250,000 'commuter face masks' at Atlantis factory

1 Apr 2020



Freeing up medical-grade masks

In order to help shoppers select masks, the portal also provides a link to fabric mask guidelines published by the DTIC. It is hoped that companies, which are currently using or issuing medical-grade masks to workers, will consider making them available to services on the frontline fighting the Covid-19 pandemic and purchase these alternative, approved masks for their workers.

The site displays the details of the manufacturer, pictures of the masks, the company's production capacity per week and unit costs. It advances local manufacturing and jobs over imports, and provides for the consumer interest with price, as well as product transparency.

Any company not complying with these requirements and others will be removed from the site. All manufacturers are required to register before they appear on the site.

"We call on all corporates and retailers to use the portal to source their masks and to liberate any medical-grade stock back to essential services," said Mashimbye.

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