

LET FREEDOM MONTH BE THE START OF A **DEBT-FREE LIFE**

April marks the celebration of Freedom Day in SA. On the downside, it's also the start of an expensive time for South Africans. Price increases for food, petrol and electricity are going to make the months ahead very tough. But don't worry, Legal&Tax is right here with you.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE PRICE HIKE, PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.

With prices on a constant increase, businesses are under stress, and the risk of unemployment is a reality. You can eliminate this worry by taking out credit life cover, which will cover your payments in any of the following unfortunate life situations:



Death:

the policy will pay out what you still owe your financial provider.



Permanent disability

the policy will pay out what you still owe your financial provider.



Temporary disability

while you are temporarily disabled, you will receive a monthly amount that covers your monthly instalments.



Dread disease diagnosis

once there is a conclusive diagnosis of the dread disease, the policy will pay out the amount you still owe your financial institution.



Retrenchment

your monthly instalment will be paid for a maximum period of six months per claim. You may only claim for a total of six months.

If you do not have any type of credit life protection, now would be a good time to get some.

DID YOU KNOW, LEGAL&TAX OFFERS DEBT COUNSELLING?

Debt counselling is a legal process where our friendly professionals will help you restructure your debt so that you can still pay for your household expenses and pay off your debt each month. This service is also available to non-members. Call us today for a free consultation.

HOW DEBT COUNSELLING WORKS

Debt counselling is a legal process of reducing your monthly debt payments.

We help you pay off the total amount you owe at a rate that is affordable for you.

Our Legal&Tax debt counsellor will get you a consent order for a new payment agreement from the National Consumer Tribunal.

This consent order ensures your creditors agree to the new repayment arrangement.

The agreement prevents debt collectors from taking legal action against you.

The sooner you call for help, the sooner Legal&Tax can help you.

CAN CREDIT PROVIDERS STILL COLLECT DEBT, EVEN IF I AM UNEMPLOYED?

The credit providers may still try to collect or hand over the accounts to attorneys as bad debt written off, thus it will be administrated by their attorneys going forward. If you are contacted by the attorneys, you need to send them an affidavit as proof that you are unemployed and looking for employment. Do not enter into any commitment or arrangement with creditors or attorneys if you don't have funds to service the debt. You can enter into new arrangements once you are employed, submitting a payslip, income and expenditure statement and three months' bank statements to negotiate affordable repayments with creditors or attorneys handling your accounts.

WHAT IF I HAVEN'T BEEN RETRENCHED, BUT I HAVE BEEN PLACED ON SHORT TIME OR MY CURRENT INCOME IS NOT ENOUGH TO COVER ALL OF MY EXPENSES?

Follow the same process by submitting to your creditors or their representatives a payslip, income and expenditure statement, and three months' bank statements to negotiate affordable repayments.

Legal&Tax

For more information about your rights, go to legalandtax.co.za or call 0860 587 587.

OTHER WAYS OF MANAGING DEBT:



DEBT ADMINISTRATION:

Debt administration is a legal process where the instalments are reduced, but credit providers only receive payment every three months. However, you will have to make repayments over a much longer time. (Your debt must be less than R50 000).

SEQUESTRATION (LEGAL REPOSSESSION OF YOUR ASSETS):

Sequestration is also a legal process whereby you are declared insolvent by an order of the High Court of South Africa. A trustee will then need to sell your assets and distribute the money made to the creditors, in accordance with the Insolvency Act. That way, your debts are written off.

REMEMBER: YOU CANNOT GET CREDIT WHILE UNDER DEBT REVIEW, ADMINISTRATION OR SEQUESTRATION

Once notification has been given to your credit providers, your accounts will be flagged, indicating that you cannot get more credit because you are over-indebted. Only once your debt has been paid in full and a clearance certificate or a court order is issued, can you get credit again. your debts are written off.

WHO CAN HELP ME?



LEGAL&TAX CAN HELP:

- Our Debt Solutions department is operated by professionals, who include registered debt counsellors, attorneys and experienced negotiators.
- We guarantee confidentiality.
- If you do not wish to be placed under debt review, we can negotiate payment arrangements on your behalf and assist by asking for extensions to avoid repossession of your assets.
- We offer you access to unlimited advice, from budgeting to taking out loans.
- Protection from being harassed and pressured by credit providers and debt collectors.
- We'll help you restore and improve your credit record profile.
- You will pay what you can afford and maintain a dignified lifestyle.

**Don't let debt get you down; help is just a phone call away.
Call us @ 0860 587 587 or email info@legalandtax.co.za
for more.**