



05 – 09 October 2026

Newsflash Highlights**05 – 09 October 2026**

Each week, Lee's Compliance and The Legal Team round up the legal and regulatory news that affects South African businesses. Here's a snapshot of what stood out this week. Our subscribers receive the full Newsflash, with every story and its practical implications.

Diary date: direct marketers must register on the National Opt-Out Registry before registration closes in **December 2026**.

**B-BBEE****Court sets aside the Legal Sector Code**

The Gauteng High Court has set aside Minister Tau's decision to gazette the B-BBEE Legal Sector Code, which would have required law firms to move towards 50% black ownership. The court found that the Minister had not applied his own mind. It did not rule on the Code's substance, so the Code could return if the Minister decides afresh.

**CONSUMER PROTECTION****Opt-Out Registry launches, with fines of up to R1 million**

Direct marketers must register by December, then cleanse their lists free of charge from December 2026 to April 2027. From May 2027, consumers can block marketers in advance, even if they opted in before. Contraventions can attract fines of up to R1 million or 10% of annual turnover, whichever is greater.

How we can help: we can review your direct marketing and consent processes against the CPA and POPIA before enforcement begins.



05 – 09 October 2026

competition commission
south africa

COMPETITION**Commission moves to revoke Premier Foods' merger approval**

The Commission alleges that Premier and RFG did not disclose the planned closure of the Tulbagh fruit cannery during the merger review, which Premier denies. Withholding material information can lead to an approved merger being revoked.

Siemens, Philips and GE referred over medical equipment repairs

The companies allegedly denied independent engineers access to spare parts, diagnostic software, service keys and training for X-ray, MRI and CT equipment. The case follows the Commission's new guidance on restrictions in repair and maintenance aftermarkets.

**CONSTRUCTION
WORK
AHEAD**

CONSTRUCTION**Umlanga residents demand halt to shopping centre construction**

The ratepayers' association cites structural and public safety concerns and a municipal stop-work notice. The owner denies any unlawful construction. Cases like this show why approvals, permits, inspections and certificates should be in order and on file.

***How we can help:** we can audit your construction health and safety and building compliance documentation.*



FINANCE**Former NTT executive settles over The Campus sale**

Former CEO Jason Goodall has agreed to pay NTT about R208 million, admitting that undisclosed interests on both sides of the sale were a serious breach of fiduciary duty. Four other executives reject his statement, and the Supreme Court of Appeal's judgment is still pending.

***How we can help:** we can review your directors' conflict-of-interest declarations and disclosure processes.*



05 – 09 October 2026



FOODSTUFFS

Industry dominated sugar tax talks, study finds

A study of Nedlac's Health Promotion Levy discussions found that community representatives were absent while business was strongly represented. The researchers call for more transparent decision-making as debate about the levy continues.



GAMBLING

Minister to engage ICASA on online gambling protections

Minister Malatsi will ask ICASA whether enough safeguards are in place where mobile networks are used to buy betting and gambling vouchers, and whether operators are complying.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

VW recalls 291 Amaroks over airbag risk

Amaroks sold between 2 June and 15 September 2026 may have a curtain airbag that does not fully deploy. Owners should take their vehicles to an approved VW Commercial Vehicles dealer for a free repair, and fleet operators should check their vehicle lists.

How we can help: *we can help you put a product recall and fleet safety procedure in place.*



LABOUR

No labour-law "amnesty" for Newcastle clothing factories

The labour department has agreed to a court order confirming that it cannot grant clothing manufacturers a grace period from labour laws or the bargaining council's collective agreement. The case against 31 factories that refused inspectors access returns to court on 12 October.

How we can help: *we can check your employment practices against the bargaining council agreements that apply to you.*



05 – 09 October 2026



SECOND-HAND GOODS

Move to ban cash sales of scrap metal

Proposed amendments would push scrap metal dealers to cashless transactions, require a register of every acquisition, disposal and pawning, and extend to precious metals. Metal theft and vandalism cost the economy an estimated R45 billion a year. **Comments close 2 November 2026.**

***How we can help:** we can assess the impact on your business and help you prepare comments.*



TRANSPORTATION

Gauteng launches digital operating licence system

The new Gauteng Public Transport Regulatory Information System lets operators, including e-hailing drivers, apply for operating licences, pay and track progress online, with a 60-day turnaround for applications.

RAF fuel levy could be cut

Government is considering reducing or scrapping the R2.27-a-litre Road Accident Fund levy, with third-party vehicle insurance among the alternatives. Meanwhile, 95 petrol has passed R30 a litre inland for the first time.

Also covered this week: Unilever's R100 million Vaseline production line in Durban, the Eastern Cape Health Department's R15 million medical negligence award, and the withdrawal of the Bill to create a central holding company for state-owned enterprises.

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