

South Africa

Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017

Financial Sector Regulations, 2018

Government Notice R405 of 2018

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Financial Sector Regulations, 2018

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[Amended by Financial Sector Regulations, 2018: Amendment (General Notice 196 of 2019) on 29 March 2019]

The Minister of Finance has, in terms of sections 61(4), 288 and 304 of the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017) (FSRA), made the Regulations set out in the Schedule.

1. Definitions

In these Regulations, “**the Act**” means the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017), and, unless the context otherwise indicates, any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in section 1 or 289 of the Act has that meaning, and—

“**appointment criteria**” means the criteria for appointment as Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, as the case may be, specified in section 61 of the Act and regulation 11;

“**Board of Review**” means the Board of Review established by section 9(2) of the Banks Act;

“**Ministerial Panel**” means the panel convened by the Minister in terms of regulation 10(1) to interview shortlisted candidates for appointment as the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority; and

“**Shortlisting Panel**” means the panel established by regulation 9(1) for the shortlisting of candidates to be interviewed for appointment as the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.

Part 1 – Transitional measures

2. Exercise of functions

- (1) If any provision of the Act comes into effect in terms of section 305 of the Act before Chapter 3 of the Act comes into effect, then until Chapter 3 comes into effect—
 - (a) a reference in a financial sector law, other than the Financial Markets Act, to the ‘Prudential Authority’, or a reference to ‘a financial sector regulator’, must be read as referring to the Reserve Bank;
 - (b) the Reserve Bank must perform the functions of the Prudential Authority as set out in section 34 of the Act;
 - (c) in respect of the Financial Markets Act, section 1A of that Act applies.
- (2) If any provision of the Act comes into effect in terms of section 305 of the Act before Chapter 4 of the Act comes into effect, then until Chapter 4 comes into effect—
 - (a) a reference in a financial sector law to the ‘Financial Sector Conduct Authority’, or a reference to ‘a financial sector regulator’, must be read as referring to the Financial Services Board;

- (b) the executive of the Financial Services Board, referred to in section 9 of the Financial Services Board Act, must perform the functions of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in terms of the Act;
 - (c) the executive officer of the Financial Services Board, referred to in section 1 of the Financial Services Board Act, must perform the functions of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in terms of legislation referred to in paragraph (b), (c) or (d) of the definition of a financial sector law in section 1(1) of the Act, subject to a delegation under section 20(3) or (3A) of the Financial Services Board Act;
 - (d) in respect of the Financial Markets Act, section 1A of that Act applies.
- (3) Until Chapter 16 of the Act comes into effect, a reference to the board in sections 15A and 16 of the Financial Services Board Act must be read as a reference to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.

3. Management of transitional process to establish Financial Sector Conduct Authority

- (1)
- (a) A transitional management committee is established, which must perform the functions of Executive Committee of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, to facilitate the disestablishment of the Financial Services Board and the functioning of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority in an efficient and effective manner with the least disruption, until the person appointed as the Commissioner has commenced service.
 - (b) The transitional management committee is comprised of—
 - (i) the chairperson of the Financial Services Board referred to in section 4(3) of the Financial Services Board Act;
 - (ii) the executive of the Financial Services Board referred to in section 9 of the Financial Services Board Act; and
 - (iii) a person with knowledge and expertise relevant to the objective of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority set out in section 57 of the Act, nominated by the Minister.
 - (c) Any decision taken by the transitional management committee during the transitional period referred to in paragraph (a) is regarded as having been taken by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.
 - (d) The chairperson of the Financial Services Board must perform the functions of the Commissioner in terms of the Act, until the person appointed as the Commissioner has commenced service.
- (2) The functions referred to in subregulation (1)(a) include functions relating to—
- (a) the transfer of staff from the Financial Services Board to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, staff placements and other human resources matters;
 - (b) the transfer of assets and liabilities from the Financial Services Board to the Financial Sector Conduct Authority;
 - (c) the appointment of contractors, consultants and staff in order to manage the transition;
 - (d) financial management and reporting;
 - (e) the functions referred to in section 60(3) of the Act;
 - (f) agreements and arrangements with international standard-setting bodies and other regulators;
 - (g) the ongoing implementation of the financial sector laws for which the Financial Services Board is responsible, and for which the Financial Sector Conduct Authority will be the responsible authority in terms of the Act;

- (h) compliance with the Public Finance Management Act;
 - (i) all matters that are necessary to enable the establishment of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority; and
 - (j) other procedural or administrative matters that are necessary to implement subregulation (1).
- (3) (a) The transitional management committee must fund the performance of the functions referred to in subregulations (1) and (2) from the funds of the Financial Services Board, or the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, as may be applicable.
- (b) The remuneration and benefits of the member of the transitional management committee referred to in subregulation (1)(b)(iii), as determined by the Minister, must be paid from the funds of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority.
- (4) (a) The terms of appointment of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, and other members of the Board of the Financial Services Board, and the executive officer of the Financial Services Board, referred to in section 13 of the Financial Services Board Act are extended until 30 November 2018, to facilitate the tabling of the final annual report and financial statements of the Financial Services Board.
- (b) The members of the transitional management committee must, in an advisory capacity, assist the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners in the performance of their functions for a period of three months after the Commissioner has commenced service, and their terms of appointment are extended until the end of that three month period.
- (c) The term of office of the executive officer continues until the later of the terms referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b).
- (5) Despite section 56 of the Act coming into effect, the board of the Financial Services Board and its relevant committee remain responsible for the approval of the financial statements of the Financial Services Board in respect of the financial year preceding the financial year in which Chapter 4 of the Act commences and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority is established, and, if Chapter 4 of the Act commences and the Financial Sector Conduct Authority is established after the commencement of a financial year, also for the financial year during which the Financial Sector Conduct Authority is established.

4. Management of transitional process to establish Financial Services Tribunal

- (1) From the date that Chapter 15 of the Act comes into effect until the commencement of legislation that empowers the imposition of levies as contemplated in section 237(1)(b) of the Act, the Financial Services Board or the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, as the case may be, must provide financial, secretarial, administrative and other support to the Tribunal, and the Board or the Authority must enter into agreements with the Reserve Bank, the Prudential Authority and the Financial Intelligence Centre to share the costs.

[subregulation (1) substituted by section 2 of [General Notice 196 of 2019](#)]

- (2) (a) From the date that Chapter 15 of the Act comes into effect until the Chairperson of the Tribunal makes Tribunal rules in accordance with section 227 of the Act, the Tribunal must apply the rules, regulations, practice directions and guidelines jointly designated by the Chairperson of the Appeal Board and the Chairperson of the Board of Review, insofar as the Act does not provide for the procedure.
- (b) The Tribunal may amend or repeal the rules, regulations, directions and guidelines designated in terms of paragraph (a) at any time.
- (c) If at the date on which the Tribunal is established, a designation has not been made in terms of paragraph (a), the Regulations in respect of appeals to the Appeal Board, 2011, and any practice directions and guidelines issued by the Chairperson of the Appeal Board remain in

force, with the necessary changes, and insofar as the Act does not provide for the procedure, until the Chairperson of the Tribunal makes Tribunal rules in accordance with section 227 of the Act.

4A. Accounting authority for statutory ombuds

The Commissioner is, for purposes of the Public Finance Management Act, the accounting authority of—

- (a) the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator referred to in section 30T(1) of the Pension Funds Act, 1956 ([Act No. 24 of 1956](#)); and
- (b) the Office of the Ombud for Financial Services Providers referred to in section 23(1) of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, 2002 ([Act No. 37 of 2002](#)).

[regulation 4A inserted by section 3 of [General Notice 196 of 2019](#)]

4B. Recovery of costs by Council for Medical Schemes

When the Council for Medical Schemes exercises powers in terms of Chapter 9 of the Act as contemplated in section 129(2) of the Act, the Registrar of Medical Schemes may recover costs associated with the exercise of those powers from—

- (a) the medical scheme that is the subject of the exercise of the powers, if the Registrar so decides, after having considered the results of the exercise of the powers; or
- (b) any person, when it appears, after considering the outcome of the exercise of the powers, that the person was knowingly a party to the carrying on of the affairs of the medical scheme in a manner that constituted an irregularity, non-compliance or contravention.

[regulation 4B inserted by section 3 of [General Notice 196 of 2019](#)]

5. Publication

Until Part 2 of Chapter 17 and section 287 come into effect, a requirement in a financial sector law to publish a document or information in the Register is satisfied by publication of the document or information on the website of the person who is required to publish it.

6. Application of sections

- (1) In section 296(2) of the Act, the phrase ‘the date on which this Chapter comes into effect’ means the date on which section 296 comes into effect.
- (2) In section 298(1)(a)(i) of the Act, the phrase ‘the date on which this Part comes into effect’ means the date on which section 298 comes into effect.
- (3) In section 301 of the Act, the phrase ‘the date on which this section comes into effect’ means ‘the date on which this subsection comes into effect’.

Part 2 – Appointment of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of Financial Sector Conduct Authority

7. Advertising vacancy

- (1) The National Treasury must advertise the positions of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner on the website of the National Treasury, as well as in other appropriate media and request the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, or prior to the establishment of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority, the Financial Services Board, to advertise the position on its website.

- (2) The advertisement referred to in subregulation (1) must specify—
 - (a) the appointment criteria to qualify for appointment as a Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner;
 - (b) information which must be submitted in support of an application; and
 - (c) the date by which applications must be submitted to the Shortlisting Panel.

8. Applications for Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner

- (1) When the position of Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner is advertised, any person who satisfies the appointment criteria may apply.
- (2) Applications in terms of subregulation (1) must—
 - (a) be made in writing to the Shortlisting Panel;
 - (b) include a comprehensive *curriculum vitae* of the person applying;
 - (c) include a motivation for the person's application, in which it is specified how the candidate satisfies the appointment criteria;
 - (d) include supporting information that is specified in the advertisement; and
 - (e) be submitted by the date indicated in the advertisement for the position as the deadline for submission of applications.

9. Shortlisting Panel

- (1) A panel for the shortlisting of persons to be interviewed for appointment as Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner is hereby established.
- (2)
 - (a) The Shortlisting Panel for the Commissioner and Deputy Commission consists of—
 - (i) the Director-General or a Deputy Director-General of the National Treasury nominated by the Director-General as chairperson;
 - (ii) a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank nominated by the Governor;
 - (iii) the Commissioner of the National Consumer Commission appointed in terms of section 87 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 ([Act No. 68 of 2008](#)), or that Commissioner's nominee;
 - (iv) a representative of the Ethics Institute of South Africa or the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa or any other body that focuses on ethics and good governance in the financial sector, designated by the Director-General of the National Treasury; and
 - (v) one person designated by the Minister who has suitable experience and expertise in the financial sector, and knowledge of the financial sector, that enables them to appropriately consider and assess the suitability of applicants for appointment as Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner.
 - (b) The Shortlisting Panel for the first appointments of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners must include the Chairperson of the Financial Services Board.
- (3) In the performance by the Shortlisting Panel of the functions in terms of subregulation (6)—
 - (a) the Director-General, or his or her nominee, has a deliberative vote and, in the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote; and
 - (b) a quorum consists of the Director-General, or his or her nominee, and two other members of the Shortlisting Panel.

- (4) (a) The Shortlisting Panel determines its procedures, subject to applicable requirements of these Regulations.
- (b) The procedure of the Shortlisting Panel must be fair, impartial, and transparent.
- (5) The Director-General, or his or her nominee, must ensure that minutes of each meeting of the Panel are kept.
- (6) (a) The Shortlisting Panel must—
 - (i) scrutinise all applications for the positions advertised and assess whether they comply with the requirements of regulation 8(2);
 - (ii) assess whether the interviewed candidates satisfy the appointment criteria; and
 - (iii) submit a shortlist of four suitable candidates for each advertised position.
- (b) The Shortlisting Panel may interview applicants for appointment as part of the process referred to in paragraph (a).
- (c) If the Shortlisting Panel determines that there are not sufficient candidates that are suitable to be shortlisted for interviewing by the Ministerial Panel for an advertised position, to meet the requirements of paragraph (a), the Panel must without delay advise the Minister accordingly, and the National Treasury must re-advertise the position.

10. Ministerial Panel

- (1) The Minister must convene a Ministerial Panel to interview candidates shortlisted by the Shortlisting Panel, which includes—
 - (a) the Minister as Chairperson;
 - (b) the Director-General;
 - (c) the Governor or a Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank nominated by the Governor; and
 - (d) one other person designated by the Minister who has suitable experience and expertise in the financial sector, and knowledge of the financial sector, that enables them to appropriately consider and assess the suitability of applicants for appointment as Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner.
- (2) The Ministerial Panel must ensure that the persons who are recommended for appointment as Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner—
 - (a) satisfy the appointment criteria; and
 - (b) contribute to a range of experience and expertise among the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners that will enable the Financial Sector Conduct Authority to effectively fulfil its mandate and perform its functions.
- (3) (a) A quorum for the Ministerial Panel consists of the Minister and two other members of the Panel.
- (b) The Ministerial Panel determines its procedures, subject to applicable requirements of these Regulations.
- (c) The procedures of the Ministerial Panel must be fair, impartial and transparent.
- (4) The Minister must ensure that minutes of each meeting of the Ministerial Panel are kept.
- (5) (a) After interviewing and deliberating on all the candidates who were interviewed, and assessing whether the interviewed candidates satisfy the appointment criteria, the Ministerial Panel must recommend a preferred person for appointment to each position that has been advertised.

- (b) If the Ministerial Panel determines that there are not sufficient candidates that are suitable for appointment to an advertised position, to meet the requirements of paragraph (a), the Ministerial Panel must without delay request that the National Treasury re-advertise the position.

11. Appointment criteria

When determining whether a candidate is suitable to be shortlisted and recommended for appointment as the Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner, the Shortlisting and Ministerial Panels must, in addition to the appointment criteria in section 61 of the Act, assess whether a candidate has—

- (a) at least 10 years' experience in a senior or executive position with—
 - (i) a regulator (preferably a financial sector regulator);
 - (ii) a financial institution;
 - (iii) a financial sector industry body;
 - (iv) a government department that is responsible for overseeing the regulation of the financial sector;
 - (v) an international financial regulatory body; or
 - (vi) any two or more of the institutions mentioned in subparagraphs (i) to (v); and
- (b) skills, knowledge and expertise that would reasonably be expected of a person in the position of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner.

12. Commencement and short title

These Regulations are called the Financial Sector Regulations, 2018, and come in effect on the date of publication in the *Gazette*.