

Benefits of Unemployment Insurance Amendment Act.



- Contributors will be able to **claim unemployment benefits for up to 365 days**, instead of 238 days, if they have worked for a **continuous four-year period**.
- **Contributors will be able to claim benefits if they have built up credits**, regardless of whether or not they have claimed within a four-year cycle.
- **Maternity benefits will be paid at a 66% fixed rate.**
- Public servants at National, Provincial and Local Government level will be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits.
- People undergoing learnership training in terms of the Skills Development Act will be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits once their learnership contract ends.
- Benefits will be paid to employees who lose income as a result of reduced working times.
- Excess cash in the UIF will be invested in job creation schemes as envisioned in terms of the Employment Services Act, and in other schemes aimed at keeping workers at risk of losing their jobs in employment.
- Contributors will be entitled to benefits even though they receive a monthly pension from the state, a benefit from the Compensation Fund, or a benefit from any unemployment fund or scheme established under the Labour Relations Act.
- You will have **12 months**, instead of **6 months**, from the date on which you were last employed to submit an application for unemployment benefits.
- You will be able to claim illness benefits if you have been sick for **seven consecutive days**, instead of **14 days**.
- You will be entitled to full maternity benefits for **121 days**, instead of **six weeks**, in the event of a miscarriage during the third trimester or a stillbirth.
- You will be able to apply for maternity benefits from **eight weeks before** the child is due to be born to **12 months after the child's birth**.
- You will be able to apply for a dependant benefit within eighteen months of the breadwinner's death
- Contributors will be allowed to nominate their beneficiaries in the case of death benefits, provided there is no surviving spouse / life partner or children.
- No agency or person who purports to act on behalf of an applicant will be allowed to charge a fee for submitting an application

Benefits to be effective once the new Amendment Act is implemented. Visit www.labour.gov.za for more information.