



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Closure of isolation site

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa: GCIS, Eastern Cape



The team behind the fight against COVID-19 in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Acting Mayor Councillor Thsonono Buyeye, announced the closure of the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium COVID-19 quarantine site on 27 August 2020, as the City sees a decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases.

The Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, supported by Government Communication and Information System, held a press briefing to inform the public about the closure of the stadium, which was used as a quarantine site.

The announcement came after the stadium, which used to have 1 351 patients when it opened on 29 April 2020, saw the number shrink to



Acting Mayor Thsonono Buyeye addressing the media on the closure of the stadium.

11 patients. The stadium recorded 1 334 full recoveries while 18 patients were referred to external hospitals.

This demonstrates the hard work, dedication and the role that the municipality played in the fight against COVID-19. Acting Mayor Buyeye applauded the staff who worked at the stadium for their devotion to serve and save the lives of residents.

“We have received good publicity on the facility. I think we were the first municipality to open an isolation site for residents, and it is 100% owned by the residents, and everything was in compliance with health requirements.



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We also had visits from the Eastern Cape Premier, the President and a team from France,” said the Acting Mayor.

Dr Litha Matiwane said the municipality’s initiative of opening the quarantine site played a vital role in the fight against COVID-19 in the metro and surrounding areas. “This idea has really made a huge impact on dealing with COVID-19 in the metro and the Sarah Baartman District. It is true that only 1% of the people who were here were referred to the external hospital and there was a 99% recovery rate in this facility.”

Shane Brown, who leads the municipality COVID-19 team, outlined the role they played as the disaster management team to bring awareness to people. He, however, expressed his disappointment on how some people were not adhering to COVID-19 regulations. He urged people to wear masks, sanitise and wash their hands frequently.



Dr Litha Matiwane interviewed by the media.



Shane Brown sharing his sentiments on behavioural patterns.



Monaheng Mosebudi said:
 "I am part of this campaign to show my support and urge law-enforcement agencies not to easily give bail to perpetrators of gender-based violence and femicide."



Mandla Nkosi said:
 "I am totally against gender-based violence and femicide because such acts are an embarrassment to society. I urge men to protect women and children. We must work together to end this scourge in our communities."



Bheki Kubeka said:
 "I urge my fellow brothers to protect women and children in our society. We must embrace, love, care and protect one another."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Violence and femicide awareness campaign

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng



Tsakane community members and stakeholders speaking in one voice.

The Government Communication and Information System together with stakeholders such as Tsakane South African Police Service, Community Policing Forum Youth Desk, community development workers, Tsakane Mall, and Faith Based Organisation embarked on the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) awareness outreach in Tsakane, on 9 August 2020, to educate and mobilise the community for active participation to end the scourge in the neighbourhood.

To drive the message home, after the formal programme, stakeholders moved to Tsakane Mall for GBVF awareness, and did a mini-drama play to advance the cause. In the play, a male actor has physical altercation towards the female actor, immediately when the noise catches the attention of the public and they sprang into action trying to rescue the woman, then the

rest of the participants show up and display posters with the messages that discourage the violence and other posters encourage people to report domestic violence.

All participants were dressed up in black and had red lipstick as a symbol of hurt. The outreach educated the community to speak out and act against gender-based violence, abuse and femicide. Furthermore, it mobilised community members to start calling for help whenever they are under attack.

The Gender-Based Violence Command Centre toll-free number: 0800 428 428, is open for the public to call to speak to a social worker for assistance and counselling. Callers can also request a social worker from the centre to contact them by dialling *120*7867# (free) from any cellphone.

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Minister leads march against violence and femicide

By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Ugu District residents marching against gender-based violence.



Police Minister Bheki Cele addressing residents of the Ugu District.

The community of Ugu District under Umthwalume took to the street on 17 August 2020, to protest against the killing of women. This comes after the discovery of bodies in a sugarcane farm located at Umnamfu area.

Police Minister Bheki Cele, KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Community Safety, Bheki Ntuli and local leaders were part of the march.

The bodies of six women were found dumped in the farm. Some of the bodies were identified as those of women who had gone missing after leaving their homes to either visit the clinic or go

shopping. The police had apprehended two suspects. However, the lead suspect was reported to have committed suicide inside the police cells.

Minister Cele, addressing marchers outside Umzumbe Magistrate Court, indicated that the police were working around the clock to discover the motive behind the killing of women in the area. “We have since deployed a team of experts from our Head Office in Pretoria to assist speed up the investigation,” he said.



Florah Shingange said:
 “I am pleading with government to fix water challenges in Thomo village. Being in the rural village and using pit toilet requires stringent hygiene, which is currently difficult to achieve.”



Manganyi Nyanisi said:
 “I comply with all protocols put in place to fight the pandemic, even though it is difficult to use a mask all the time.”



Rikhotso Grace said:
 “Being able to sell fruits again at social grants pay points makes me grateful. It was very difficult when we were in Level 5 of the nationwide lockdown because people’s movements were restricted.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Monitoring COVID-19 protocol adherence

By Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo



The observation of safety measures at Xitlakati village.



Social distance observed at Thomo village.

In combating the spread of COVID-19, Mopani District Municipality Command Council embarked on a campaign to monitor adherence on the coronavirus lockdown regulation during social grants payment. On 19 August 2020, a number of pay points were visited across the district by members of the council according to the grant payment programme.

The monitoring visits included checking if social distance was being implemented, wearing of masks and washing of hands by South African Social Security Agency employees and beneficiaries. Interviews were also conducted in an effort to understand if people are well informed regarding the pandemic and if they know the regulations aligned to each alert level of the lockdown.

The mutual working relationship by members of the command council accelerated efficiency in the work of government in addressing gaps which were identified during the monitoring process. The Department of Water and Sanitation has since been distributing bottled sanitisers to the elderly in different pay points. This came after a plea by the most disadvantaged communities who are far from the accessing these materials and are living in poverty.

Government’s intervention is a rescue mission to those who are unable to buy their own hand sanitisers. Other issues which were gathered during the interviews were discussed in the District Technical Committee and ultimately escalated to the council if solutions could not be found at that level.