



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 screening and testing for inmates

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

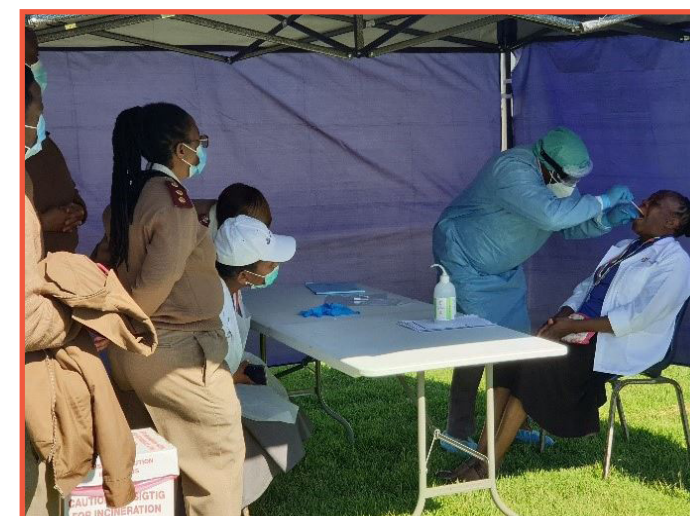
The Government Communication and Information System provided communication support to the Mpumalanga Department of Health and the Department of Correctional Services during the mass screening and testing of inmates for the COVID-19 on 23 April 2020 in the Gert Sibande District Municipality.

The screening and testing took place at Bethal, Piet Retief, Volksrust and Carolina correctional centres. This initiative was a response to the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa to flatten the curve of COVID-19.

The inmates welcomed government's initiative to have all community members tested including those in correctional centres. In total, 1 120 offenders were screened and tested in Bethal Correctional Centre. To date, more than 486 619 screenings have been conducted in Mpumalanga.



An inmate waiting to be tested for COVID-19 at the Bethal Correctional Centre.



Health official taking samples for COVID-19 testing.



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Sonnyboy Mndawe said:

“All inmates have been screened. Officials are screened and sanitised every day when they enter the correctional centre, so, inmates are protected from being infected by officials as it was their concern that officials leave the correctional centre to their respective places and they may infect them [inmates].”



Nana Hlatshwayo said:

“The processes of COVID-19 screening is currently running well and smoothly. A total of 1 120 offenders have been screened at the Bethal Correctional Centre. We will keep on monitoring the inmates.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 awareness and masks donation

By Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 28 April 2020, KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu joined by Mayors of City of uMhlatuze Local Municipality and King Cetshwayo District Municipality, Mduduzi Mhlongo and Nonhle Mkhulisi, embarked on COVID-19 awareness campaign at eSikhaleni Mall. The campaign was aimed at encouraging the community of King Cetshwayo District to cooperate with mass screening and testing happening in the area and also encourage the community to practise social distancing all the time.

MEC Simelane-Zulu thanked the Covenant Fellowship Church International (CFCI) for boosting the fight against COVID-19 through the donation of 20 000 surgical masks. "We really appreciate the role of the church. There is not a single government in the world that can win a war such as the one we have, against a pandemic such as this one, on its own. The church is one sphere of society that is closest to the people. We therefore urge other church leaders to draw from this example set by prophet and prophetess Dhlomo, and find ways to get involved and fight this pandemic."

Explaining the motive behind the donation, CFCI leader Apostle Mandlenkosi Dhlomo said: "We have frontline workers who are at the forefront of the battle. If they get defeated, everyone is vulnerable. So, this is an offering from the church. Members of the church, the business community within the church, and the church leadership, need to say to the world that, 'the church is right there, involved with you. We are feeling the pain that is there'."



Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu and Mayors receiving face masks donated by a local church.



Mayor Mduduzi Mhlongo encouraging the practice of social distancing at eSikhaleni Mall.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Government upscales intervention in Majola village

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

OR Tambo District Municipality Executive Mayor Councillor Thokozile Sokhanyile handed out Personal Protective Equipment and six water tanks to residents of Majola village on 6 May 2020. The equipment included 100 buckets of bleach, hand sanitiser, masks, gloves and a bacteria-killing detergent.

Situated in Port St Johns, Majola village has come under serious spotlight in recent times due to an unprecedented surge on COVID-19 infections alleged to have risen because of the funeral that was held in the village in March 2020. President Cyril Ramaphosa in his address to the nation on 23 April 2020, further referenced to the Majola village issue. The village has become a hotspot area for COVID-19 in the OR Tambo District. This has since paved way for a series of interventions to ensure that screening, testing and tracing take place in the area. The municipality has also come on board to ensure that resources are provided to the community. The items included disinfecting products, soaps, sanitisers, gloves and buckets.

Majola village is one of the economic hubs of Port St Johns Local Municipality as it produces tea that is sold locally and exported to other African countries in the Southern African Development Community region. The outbreak has since brought the operations at Majola tea plant to a halt as people needed to comply with lockdown regulations of staying at home, observing social/physical distancing and practising good hygiene.

In her statement, Executive Mayor Sokhanyile, stated that she has taken upon herself to visit every hospital where Majola people are admitted and quarantined. "Today I am glad to say there is a fully recovered person among us, which means COVID-19 can be beaten especially when people practise hygiene at all times," she said.

She further stated that the initiative is to show that government cares about the people of Majola and government has not forgotten them in this desperate time of need. The local traditional leader Chief Nolundi Meji welcomed the Executive Mayor's visit to Majola village and called on the municipality to establish a quarantine site for Majola residents. She further pleaded with the community to open their doors for screening and testing.



OR Tambo District Municipality officials during the handover of equipments to the community.



Executive Mayor Thokozile Sokhanyile showing the gloves that were donated to community members.