



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Donation of school bicycles to learners

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo



Zoliswa Gidi-Dyos was the first person in the country to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.



Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi handing over a bicycle to a learner.

The Deputy Minister of Transport, Dikeledi Magadzi, together with Limpopo Transport MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and Education MEC Polly Boshieho visited Northam Comprehensive School in Thabazimbi Local Municipality on 19 February 2021.

The purpose of the visit was to donate bicycles to the learners who travel more than 3km to the school. The bicycle programme is part of the Department of Transport's Scholar Transport Programme, initiated in 2001.



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The MEC for Education emphasised that education is the key to unlock all doors, therefore, resources should be provided to enable learners to be educated and contribute to the economy of the country actively.

The school principal Molaola Chaba appreciated the efforts taken by government to provide bicycles to the learners as the challenges of late coming, high absenteeism and school drop-out will be addressed. Lack of scholar transport also had a negative impact on after-school classes, as the learners would not attend, as they had to travel long distance to get home.



Mercy Ndlovu said:

"I am happy that I now have a bicycle to travel to school. I will not be late anymore."



Tebogo Mosodi said:

"I have never ridden a bicycle before but I am willing to try it, as it will help me to be early when going to school."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

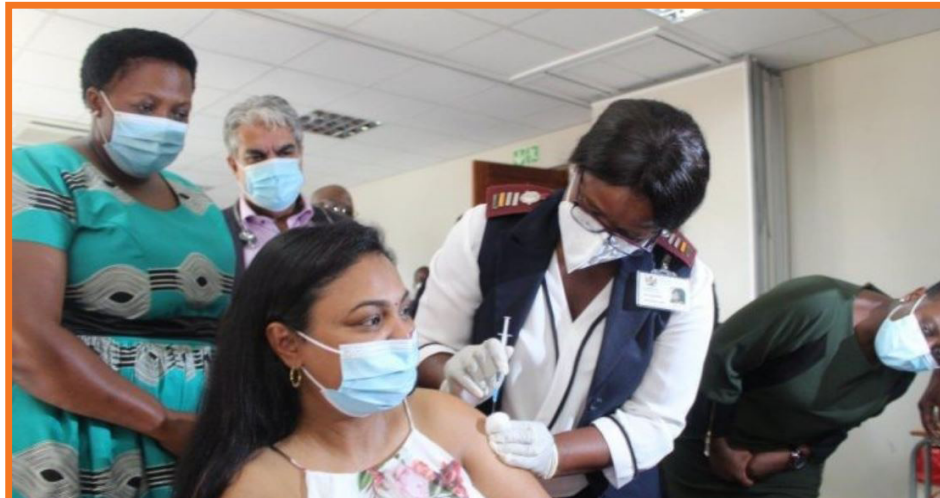
Mpumalanga COVID-19 vaccination programme

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Jeshika Moodley (Speech therapist) said:

"I had a mild COVID-19 in July during the first wave. A lot of my colleagues who had it were not as lucky because their symptoms were severe. When the vaccines were announced, especially when they came to South Africa we were looking forward to it. I registered as soon as we were able to because I do not want to get COVID-19. To any of my colleagues and community members, I would encourage that they take the vaccine."



The Department of Health's Dr. Savera Mohangi, was the first person in Mpumalanga to get the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.



Rob Ferreira Hospital CEO Fridah Nyathi also led by example and got her vaccination.

Mohammed Siddique Tayob (CEO Mzansi Ethical Research Centre) said:

"I am excited to get the vaccine. Government has done an amazing thing. We are very excited to be one of the first in the world to get the vaccine. From our side as the Mzansi Ethical Research Centre in Middelburg, we are very proud to be chosen to assist in the roll-out of this vaccine."

The Mpumalanga COVID-19 vaccinations programme was launched on 19 February 2021 at Rob Ferreira Hospital. Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and the MEC for Health, Sasekani Manzini, facilitated the launch.

"Today we are here to launch the provincial rollout of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. The decision to start with healthcare workers first was the correct one and the rest of us shall follow. Statistics show that our health workers are most susceptible to contract the COVID-19 infection. We have also sadly lost 41 of our healthcare workers in the province, who have selflessly sacrificed their lives to save others," said Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane

"Our province continues to record a recovery rate of 96%. We currently have 1 611 active cases. These are not just statistics; they represent real people who were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, friends, breadwinners and active members of their communities. We are also preparing for a possible third wave this May," the Premier explained.

A total of 2000 doses of the vaccine have been delivered to Rob Ferreira Hospital and 1 640 doses was delivered to the Witbank Hospital. The Premier added that if the third wave happens, the province will need to have all its workers healthy and protected against the virus.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

Sedibeng COVID-19 awareness

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng



Makgome Khina from the Department of Health engaging with a community member on COVID-19 testing.



Health official Fikile Makwe (left) sharing COVID-19 information.

In ensuring success in the fight against coronavirus, Sedibeng District Health promoters embarked on an awareness campaign in Sebokeng, Gauteng on 17 February 2021. The purpose of the campaign was to reinforce government messages about the virus and share government programmes tailored towards eradicating the pandemic.

Health education was provided to community members and they were also encouraged to continue visiting their nearest health facilities for treatment and consultation. Fikile Makwe from the Department of Health said, "We are here to ensure that our community receive information about COVID-19 and other health services, and to remind them that it is still important to go to health facilities for other services like child immunisation and taking chronic medication."

Screening and testing for COVID-19 was conducted, and the community was encouraged to follow guidelines and regulations set to prevent the spread of the virus, while waiting for the vaccine. Sarah Mafere from the Department of Health said, it is necessary for every citizen to take action by adhering to regulations to prevent the spread of the virus".

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Continue adhering to COVID-19 regulations

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape



O.R. Tambo Environmental Health official conducting a COVID-19 awareness at Kwantsila village.



Awareness campaign on COVID-19 regulations at a clinic in Kwantsila village.



Posters were placed at a local clinic.

Government continues to ensure that all community members, including those in far-flung areas, receive information to help them alleviate social problems within society. In its mandate to provide information, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) office in O.R. Tambo District collaborated with the O.R. Tambo District Municipality, community development workers and ward councillors to conduct a COVID-19 and vaccination awareness campaign at Kwantsila on 10 February 2021.

Kwantsila is a tiny village situated in the hills and valleys of Port St. Johns. Communities in this village are engulfed by the sudden increase in number of deaths in the area caused by COVID-19. Funeral regulations in this village are not adhered to, people handle human remains themselves, community leaders are struggling to monitor funeral attendance as recommended, and some people still hold night vigils.

The awareness campaign served as a collaborated effort to ensure that people are aware of the dangers of COVID-19 and are constantly reminded that they should always wear their masks, wash hands and maintain a social distance.

With the country having moved alert level 1 of the lockdown, attendance of funerals is limited to not more than 100 people. If the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing.

"We are very thankful of the awareness campaign done by government. COVID-19 is very cruel, it kills. People must do what government says they must do," said Mzuvukile Mbangeli. He continued to state that he plays his part in the fight against COVID-19 by ensuring that he wears a mask, wash hands and stays at home, and only goes out when there is a need to do so.