



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Inspecting the Esselen Park COVID-19 quarantine site

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

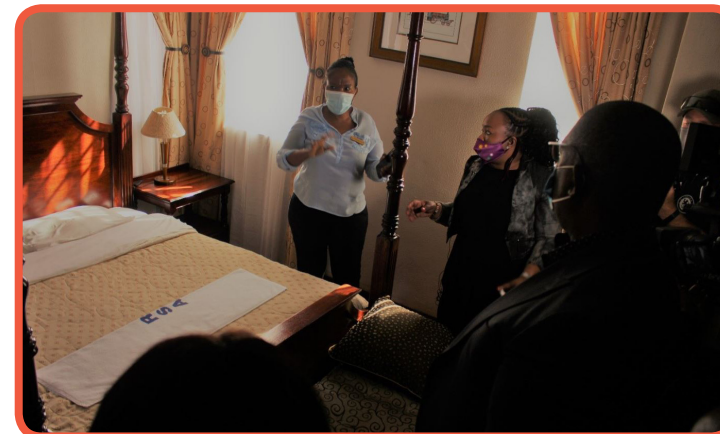
On 22 May 2020, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Thembi Siweya, Gauteng Health MEC Bandile Masuku and Acting Social Development MEC Panyaza Lesufi inspected the Esselen Park quarantine site in Kempton Park. The objective was to assess the state of readiness to accommodate COVID-19 patients as cases grow rapidly in Ekurhuleni.

The quarantine site consists of a makeshift clinic, social worker rooms for counselling services, a kitchen with environmental health food inspectors, general accommodation rooms and rooms for persons living with disabilities.

The visit included a walkabout to monitor compliance to lockdown regulations in the area, and mass screening and testing at the Evergreen Fruit and Vegetable Centre in Esselen Park.



Health workers welcoming guests at the Esselen Park quarantine site.



Government officials inspecting a room at the quarantine site.



government  
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**PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.**

**Traditional leaders support governmental call to save lives**

*By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

Traditional leaders have been lobbied as critical stakeholders to share relevant information and urge communities to adhere to the COVID-19 lockdown regulations. In this regard, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) has built sound communication partnerships with strategic traditional councils in and around East London.

It is through these strategic relationships that the GCIS coordinated a radio programme, on 12 May 2020, for the Royal Council Deputy Chairperson of the AmaRharhabe Kingdom, Chief Mzibanzi Jali. He addressed communities on the COVID-19 pandemic through the Mdantsane Community Radio Station.

Chief Jali pledged his continued support to the government's response measures to COVID-19. He said, "as traditional leaders, we support all measures put in place and we will ensure that people in our villages adhere to the lockdown regulations". He urged people to continue staying at home, wear masks at all times and wash their hands regularly.

Chief Jali also announced that the traditional initiation season in his area has been suspended. This decision came after consultations with several role players, including traditional leaders and communities.



Chief Jali, pictured with government officials, engaging communities on COVID-19 on Mdantsane FM.



## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Inmates screened for COVID-19

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

On May 2020, the Free State Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in partnership with the Department of Health conducted a campaign to screen 700 inmates for COVID-19. The screening took place at the Odendaalsrus Correctional Centre in which implementing critical regulations, such as social distancing, was a challenge due to the large numbers of inmates.

The DCS also used this platform to screen inmates with underlying chronic illnesses that could further compromise their immune systems. The department revealed that plans are underway to curb the infection rate at the centres to help flatten the curve.



**Teboho Mokgomo said:**

"I know about the coronavirus. The department ensures that we screen and sanitise every time we go to court. I am satisfied with the way the department is handling the pandemic."



**Sipho Mlangeni said:**

"I really appreciate what government is doing to ensure that we do not get infected by COVID-19."



Officials screening offenders for COVID-19 at the Odendaalsrus Correctional Centre.



**Busisiwe Sambo said:**

“We used to travel a long distance, crossing the main road to the Mananga border to access water but now we are thankful and hope that soon after the lockdown we will receive water reticulation all around. We are indeed grateful that we are considered by the municipality.”

## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Water supply fills hygiene gap in Nkomazi

*By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

On 13 May 2020, the Chief Executive Officer of the Inkomati Usuthu Catchment Management Agency (IUCMA), Dr Thomas Gyedu-Ababio, accompanied by IUCMA Board Deputy Chairperson Sam Mthembu, handed over 10 JoJo tanks to communities in the Nkomazi Local Municipality. This is an intervention from Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Kamaqhekeza village was identified as having water shortages and has benefitted from the PPP. Speaking during the handover ceremony, Dr Gyedu-Ababio said: “The project is a response to the President’s call for extra precautions of hygiene and for the provision of essential services during lockdown – with water being one of these key essentials. As an agency, we will be rolling out these JoJo tanks as a temporary relief to municipalities that are in dire need of water in the province.”

The Nkomazi Local Municipality Speaker Siphwe Mashele and Chief Whip Emma Ngcane received certificates that confirmed the installation of the JoJo tanks and highlighted the commitment by the Nkomazi Local Municipality to provide water to communities. The Speaker appealed to these communities to guard the donated infrastructure from being stolen.



Handover of a JoJo water tank to the Kamaqhekeza community.



Officials acknowledging the installation of the JoJo water tanks.