Sedibeng COVID-19 Operation Okae Molao

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

On 18 June 2020, the Gauteng South African Police Service Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Elias Mawela led an initiative called the COVID-19 Operation Okae Molao in Vanderbijlpark – to ensure and monitor adherence to lockdown regulations.

The main purpose of the operation was to ensure the safety of citizens. Law enforcement agencies, including the South African National Defence Force, were on board to ensure that the community is aware of COVID-19 regulations. “We are here to enforce adherence and provide information to the community about coronavirus. I am pleased that the community is aware of the regulations and that they are adhering to them,” said Lieutenant-General Mawela.

The officials screened motorists on the R57 for COVID-19 in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. They also gave the community information on COVID-19 prevention and self-care.
PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Eshowe taxi rank COVID-19 awareness
By Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 25 June 2020, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the uMlalazi Local Municipality and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health led a COVID-19 educational drive at Eshowe Bus and Taxi Rank.

The purpose of the drive was to assess if the community of uMlalazi was complying with Level 3 lockdown regulations. The drive was also aimed at educating members of the public about the correct use of face masks and the importance of maintaining social distancing.

Officials highlighted the dangers of COVID-19 and the importance of abiding by lockdown rules while ensuring that health specification in public spaces are adhered to. Citizens explained how the lockdown has affected their lives and businesses, adding that they were looking forward to the day the pandemic ended so that life can go back to normal.

GCIS official, Ms Bongeka Nkwanyana sanitizing and urging the community to wear masks and follow Level 3 regulations.

GCIS Provincial Director Ndala Mngadi distributing COVID-19 leaflets.
On 24 June 2020, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited the Waterval Boven Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, and various schools and clinics in Emakhazeni to distribute COVID-19 information leaflets and other educational government information. This was part of the COVID-19 Awareness Campaign in Emakhazeni Local Municipality.

Ebhudweleni Public School appointed COVID-19 champions to screen, sanitize, and register all visitors, staff members and learners to ensure compliance with COVID-19 regulations. The school Principal Vusi Soko said they will distribute the leaflets to learners and put COVID-19 posters in every class to educate staff members and learners about the virus.
Oversight visit to West Coast quarantine facilities
By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Western Cape

On 11 June 2020, Health Deputy Minister Joe Phaahla and the Western Cape Health MEC Nomafrench Mbombo visited various COVID-19 quarantine and isolation facilities in the West Coast.

Their first stop was at the Saldanha Bay Holiday Resort, which is being used for isolation. The facility accommodates about 240 patients. They then visited another facility in Tabakbaai which is being used for quarantine – and accommodates about 125 patients.

Deputy Minister Phaahla received an oversight report on facilities in Saldanha Bay Municipality and Swartland Municipality. A brief discussion was held with various stakeholders on the readiness and assistance given to the Department of Health.

MEC Mbombo thanked the stakeholders for partnering with the Department of Health in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. She urged communities to adhere to all regulations in order to flatten the COVID-19 curve.