



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 vaccination programme roll-out

By Marianne Williams: GCIS, Western Cape



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



President Cyril Ramaphosa also got vaccinated at Khayelitsha Hospital.

On 17 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa and Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize received the first Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccination alongside 16 other medical staff at the Khayelitsha Hospital.

"Can I close my eyes," President Ramaphosa jokingly said, as the nurse prepared to vaccinate him in his left arm. The President described his vaccination as quick and almost pain free. "At first I was a bit terrified of this long needle that was going to be embedded into my arm, but it happened so quickly, so easily. It was just a prick on my flesh and I really did not feel much pain," he said.



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Zoliswa Gidi-Dyos, a labour-ward nurse, became the first health worker in South Africa to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. "I was excited when they told me I would receive the vaccine. Today, I feel nervous but I know it will protect me, my loved ones and those around me while we are fighting this COVID-19 pandemic," said Zoliswa.

Western Cape Health MEC Nomafrench Mbombo and Minister Mkhize watched as Zoliswa was injected with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Other healthcare workers at Khayelitsha Hospital expressed their appreciation and relief as they witnessed the vaccination process.

MEC Mbombo stated that the 13 000 vaccines allocated to the Western Cape will be administered at Tygerberg and Groote Schuur Hospitals, the largest hospitals in the province.

South Africa received 80 000 Johnson & Johnson doses, which arrived at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg on 16 February 2021. Health workers who want to be vaccinated are encouraged to register on the Electronic Vaccine Data System of the Department of Health, through the link <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>.



Luyanda Adams said:

"I choose vaccination and I appreciate government's effort to fight the pandemic. I trust that the vaccination will help and save lives of millions of South Africans."



Andiswa Yisa said:

"I choose the vaccine, and I thank the President for his efforts to fight the deadly virus. I hope the vaccine will protect many South Africans."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hospital receives new neonatal ward

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu, engaging with staff members at the General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Hospital.

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu visited the new neonatal ward at the General Justice Gizenga Mpanza Hospital in the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Ilembe District on 9 February 2021. The new ward, attending to the needs of expectant mothers, provides integrated relevant services under one roof.

The construction of the complex started in 2013 but was interrupted due to various challenges. MEC Simelane-Zulu thanked Ilembe District Champion and MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Peggy Nkonyeni, for their leadership in ensuring that the construction was completed.

The new complex comprises nine stand-alone labour wards (one mother and baby in each ward), mothers' lodge with 15 beds, and antenatal ward with 43 beds, post-natal ward with 63 beds and a total of 33 beds in the gynaecology ward. In addition, it has a brand new helipad, a human milk bank and a room for patients and staff to express milk.

MEC Simelane-Zulu applauded the high level of skilled professionals, thus assuring expectant mothers of high quality health services and care at the hospital. She added that "no child should be born with HIV and AIDS in this day and age". She urged pregnant women to visit the antenatal clinics early so that threats to the pregnancy and other health issues can be detected and timeously treated.

Officials from the Department of Health have been out in various COVID-19 hotspot areas within the province, loud-hailing messages and encouraging communities to stay safe, observe the non-pharmaceutical protocols as a preventative measure against COVID-19 infection and promoting vaccine acceptance.

On 12 February, MEC Simelane-Zulu hosted a virtual media engagement from the new helipad at the hospital. The engagement was broadcasted on Gagasi FM, Siyathuthuka FM and Khwezi FM, and also on the department's social-media pages. Issues relating to COVID-19 myths, preventative measures, and vaccine roll-out and vaccine acceptance were discussed.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Back-to-school campaign in John Taolo Gaetsewe District

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape



Health MEC Maruping Lekwene engaging stakeholders at Kalahari High School.



MEC Lekwene with other delegates at Kuruman Primary School.

The Northern Cape Provincial Government deployed Members of the Executive Council (MECs) and Members of the Provincial Legislature to various schools across the province to assess their readiness to accept learners for the 2021 academic year.

Schools re-opened for learners throughout the country on 15 February 2021. The delay was due to the pressure experienced by the health system, occasioned by increased COVID-19 infections, which led to the second wave in the country.

Health MEC Maruping Lekwene was deployed to monitor schools in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, where he visited Kalahari High School and Kuruman Primary School respectively, on 16 February 2021.

The MEC engaged with learners, teachers, parents and district officials. He expressed his satisfaction with all the measures put in place to ensure that learning and teaching resumed in a safe environment.

The MEC further expressed that the online registration system appeared to be challenging and that it would definitely be strengthened and improved. This was after some parents had expressed their dissatisfaction with the online registration system, due to the unavailability of space where their children were placed.

MEC Lekwene said no child should be denied the opportunity to be educated and that there was a commitment from the district office to deal with all registration matters urgently.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Mayor launches campaign against violence

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West



Mayor Andries Monageng addressing the community during the awareness campaign.



A resident of Mathibestad speaking about how violence has affected many families.



A member of a local faith-based organisation praying against violence.

The Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality, Councillor Andries Monageng, officially launched a campaign against gender-based violence (GBV) through an outreach programme in Mathibestad, North West on 13 February 2021.

The mayor, who was accompanied by some of the members of his executive, listened to community members expressing their views on GBV and how they think this scourge of violence against women can be stopped within the Moretele Local Municipality.

The outreach was also attended by the South African Police Service (SAPS), faith-based organisations and other stakeholders. The mayor emphasised the importance of reporting GBV to relevant authorities. "Gender-based violence increased during the lockdown and it must stop with immediate effect," he said.

A prayer against violence on women and children was also conducted. Citizens were urged to report cases of GBV to the SAPS through the toll-free number 08600 10111. Community members may also contact the Department of Social Development's GBV Command Centre toll-free number: 0800 428 428 to speak to a social worker for assistance and counselling. Callers can also request a social worker to call them back by dialling *120*7867# (free) from any cellphone. Alternatively, callers may also send an SMS to 31531 or via Skype by adding "HelpMeGBV" as a contact for assistance.