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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY REVIVES WARD COUNCILLOR'S FORUM
PAGE 5



GIVING PUPILS A HEAD START
PAGE 6



NEWCASTLE'S FIRST CITIZEN GETS THE COVID-19 JAB!
PAGE 9



2021 YOUTH PARLIAMENT
PAGE 12



STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA ON PROGRESS IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



30 MAY 2021

Fellow South Africans,

It has been some time since we last held a family meeting.

When I last spoke to you, exactly two months ago, South Africa was recovering from a deadly second wave of coronavirus infections.

Then, the number of new daily infections had stabilised at a relatively low level, and we had placed the country on Coronavirus Alert Level 1.

While we continued to urge caution, the

low levels of transmission allowed us to ease restrictions on the size of gatherings.

But now, after several months of low transmission, the number of infections has begun to rise sharply in several parts of the country.

We have seen a sustained increase over the last four weeks.

Over the last seven days, we have seen an average of 3,745 daily new infections.

This is an increase of 31 per cent on the previous week, and an increase of 66 per cent on the week before that.

The proportion of COVID-19 tests that are positive has more than doubled in the last month from around 4 per cent to more than 11 per cent, even as we have increased testing across the country.

We are advised that a positivity rate of over 5 per cent is a cause for concern.

The provinces of Free State, Northern Cape, North West and Gauteng have reached the threshold of a third wave of infections.

It may only be a matter of time before the country as a whole will have entered a third wave.

According to our health experts, the recent surge in new infections is due to the increasing number of social gatherings where people are not observing essential health protocols.

These protocols include the wearing of masks, social distancing, ensuring adequate ventilation and limits on the number of people who attend gatherings.

Other sites of increased transmission are funerals and so-called 'after tears' parties, as well as camps and sporting activities at schools.

Because rates of infection have been low for some time, and because we are all suffering from pandemic fatigue, we have tended to become complacent.

We have not been as vigilant about wearing our masks all the time, we have not been avoiding crowded places, and we

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have been socialising more.

As a result, infections are surging again.

The increase in daily cases is following the same trajectory as it did at the start of the previous two waves.

We have seen in other countries the tragic consequences of allowing the virus to spread unchecked.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 has therefore recommended that the country urgently implement further restrictions to limit the increase in infections.

It bases this recommendation on the sustained increase in new cases in the last 14 days, increased hospital admissions in almost all provinces and an increase in the proportion of COVID tests that are positive.

Further restrictions are necessary to ensure that health facilities are not overwhelmed and that lives that could be saved are not lost.

Delaying the spread of the virus is especially important now to allow as many people as possible to be vaccinated before the third wave reaches its peak.

These recommendations have been discussed at the National Coronavirus Command Council and, earlier today, with Premiers, mayors and traditional leaders in the President's Coordinating Council.

Based on these discussions, Cabinet has therefore decided that the country will be placed on Adjusted Alert Level 2 with effect from tomorrow.

This means that:

- The hours of curfew will start at 11pm and end at 4am.

- Non-essential establishments like restaurants, bars and fitness centres will need to close by 10pm. This is to allow their employees and patrons to travel home before the start of the curfew.

- All gatherings will be limited to a maximum of 100 people indoors and 250 people outdoors.

Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, then no more than 50 per cent of the capacity of the venue may be used.

This includes religious services, political events and social gatherings, as well as restaurants, bars, taverns and similar places.

Several important measures remain in place.

It remains mandatory for every person to wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth at all times when in public spaces.

It is a criminal offence not to do so.

The owners and managers of public buildings, centres, shops, restaurants, taxis and buses all have a responsibility to ensure that people on their premises or in their vehicles wear masks, and that the appropriate social distancing measures are in place.

If you test positive for COVID-19, you must self-isolate at home for a period of 10 days from when you first developed symptoms.

If you have been in contact with a person who has COVID-19, you must also self-quarantine for a period of 10 days following your exposure, even if you do not show any symptoms.

Identifying and isolating all contacts of a positive case is our best mechanism to prevent the virus from spreading further, and so it is very important that we all obey the rules for isolation and quarantine.

Funerals remain restricted to no more than 100 people, and, as before, night vigils, after-funeral gatherings and 'after-tears' gatherings are not allowed.

While the country is headed towards a

third wave of infections, we do not yet know how severe this wave will be or for how long it will last.

According to the scientists that advise government, the severity of this third wave will largely be determined by the amount of contact each of us has with other people.

This means that each of us needs to think about all the people we come into contact with each day and do everything we can to limit those contacts.

Sometimes it is unavoidable to be in contact with other people, such as at work or when shopping or in public transport.

In such cases, it is important that we strictly observe all the health protocols by wearing a mask, keeping our distance from others and ensuring proper ventilation.

But wherever possible, we should cut down on our contacts during this time.

That may mean postponing social engagements, avoiding public spaces and not travelling unless absolutely necessary.

Gatherings are the greatest sources of transmission, whether its weddings, funerals, social parties, religious services, political meetings or simply gatherings of family and friends.

We must remember that the virus does not move from place to place by itself; it relies on the movement of people.

The less we travel, the less the virus is spread.

It is especially important to avoid indoor spaces, as the coronavirus is spread through the air when a person speaks, coughs or sneezes.

If you need to meet someone, including a member of your family, it is safer to do so outside in a well-ventilated space.

Those who are at particular risk, including the elderly and those with comorbidities,

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should exercise caution and should limit their contacts as much as possible.

If each of us makes this effort now, we will help to flatten the curve of infections.

We will reduce the pressure on our hospitals, and, in doing so, we will save many lives.

As we continue to focus on reducing transmission of the virus through our behaviour, we have embarked on the biggest mass vaccination programme in our country's history.

Two weeks ago, we started the second phase of the vaccination programme, targeting the balance of our health workers who had not yet been vaccinated during the first phase and all those in the country who are over 60 years of age.

This follows the first phase of the programme, in which nearly 480,000 health workers were vaccinated.

More than 67 per cent of public health workers have been vaccinated

These health workers received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which only requires a single dose.

Since the evidence shows that older people are at a far greater risk of severe COVID-19 illness and death, we have prioritised the elderly for this second phase.

Over the last two weeks, over 480,000 people have received the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine as part of the public vaccination campaign.

Because the Pfizer vaccine requires two doses to provide maximum immunity, these people will need to have second dose 42 days after their first dose.

In total, over 960,000 people in South Africa have received one vaccine dose.

Within the next few days, we will have administered vaccine doses to more than

one million of the most vulnerable South Africans.

It has been heart-warming to see images of our elderly citizens receiving their vaccine, and to read the many stories of kindness and solidarity from those who have visited a vaccination site.

The positive experiences of the rollout so far reflect both the dedication and professionalism of our healthcare workers, and the intense preparation that has gone into ensuring that the rollout is successful.

The Electronic Vaccine Data System forms the backbone of the programme to manage registration and the allocation of vaccines.

The system links people who have registered to a vaccination site near them.

The system enables the national team to monitor vaccine use and to deploy vaccines to where they are needed.

Registration and vaccination of those over 60 years is going well.

We now have over 3 million people registered on the Electronic Vaccine Data System.

Since this is the first time this system is being used, it is understandable that there have been some initial problems, which have inconvenienced people and sometimes caused delays.

Fortunately, these have been attended to quickly and the system is being continually adapted and strengthened as the rollout proceeds.

There are other challenges we are working to address.

A significant number of the elderly have encountered difficulties in registering on the Electronic Vaccine

Data System.

This is due to lack of access to the tools need to register online, such as a computer, internet access or mobile phone, or difficulties following the instructions in English.

We are working to get around these problems, and a huge drive to support the elderly to register is underway.

There are four ways that you can register to receive your COVID-19 vaccine:

- By using the online registration platform available on the SA Coronavirus website

- By dialling *134*832# and registering via USSD

- By sending the word "register" via WhatsApp to 0600 123 456

- By calling the national toll-free call centre on 0800 029 999, where somebody will help you to register and answer any questions about the vaccination rollout

Each and every one of us can help our parents, our grandparents, or the elderly people in our community to register on the system and get protected.

All of the vaccines that are approved for use in South Africa are safe and effective.

They have carefully been tested in large trials and subjected to a rigorous approval process by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority and by a number of health authorities around the world.

Most importantly, they all provide protection against severe illness or death as a result of COVID-19.

We are continuing discussions with other vaccine manufacturers so that we are able to include different vaccines in our programme.

Some of these manufacturers are in the

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process of seeking the necessary approvals from our health products authority.

The mass vaccination campaign is a joint effort with all our partners.

There are now more than 400 vaccination sites in operation across the country in both the public and private sectors.

As we have previously reported, we have secured enough vaccines to reach all adults in the country, which is around 40 million people.

This includes 31 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which is a single dose, and which will be manufactured here in South Africa.

It includes 20 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine, which requires two doses to provide full protection.

The scheduled delivery of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines has however been delayed due to regulatory issues related to lack of adherence to proper standards at a manufacturing plant in the United States.

We are waiting for these issues to be resolved before the first batch of Johnson & Johnson vaccines can be released from the facility in Gqeberha in the Eastern Cape.

While this is a challenge that has affected the supply of vaccines for many countries and not just in our country, we are in constant contact with the relevant authorities to ensure that our doses can be released as soon as possible.

Around 1.3 million Pfizer doses have already been distributed and nearly 500,000 administered.

The next 636,000 doses arrive tonight with weekly deliveries of an equivalent volume until end June, when we will receive 2.5 million doses.

Our reliance on the Pfizer vaccine for now has affected the pace at which we are able to open vaccination sites.

Due to the properties of the Pfizer vaccine which requires an ultra-cold supply chain, inclusion of smaller sites and sites in more rural areas is limited.

When the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been cleared, it will be much easier to administer.

It is a single dose vaccine and can be stored in a normal fridge.

While our vaccine rollout ramps up over the coming weeks, I urge everyone to be patient and to await their turn.

It is important that we allow healthcare workers and those above the age of 60 to be vaccinated first, as they are most at risk of severe illness or hospitalisation.

For the time being, only these two groups are eligible to receive a vaccination until the next priority groups are announced.

I would like to thank all of our social partners, including the private sector, labour, community organisations, religious groups and traditional leaders, for coming up with innovative ways to support this drive.

As the African continent we are pushing ahead with efforts to expand our vaccine manufacturing capacity with a view to be self-sufficient in vaccine production.

We are also part of the global effort to ensure that all countries have access to sufficient vaccines as a matter of urgency.

We are continuing to urge all countries to support a waiver of the TRIPS agreement at the World Trade Organisation so that COVID-19 vaccines and treatments can be produced on a greater scale, at lower cost and at a faster pace.

Just as our response to the pandemic has depended on all of us acting together, the vaccine rollout requires a whole-of-society effort to succeed.

Right now, our foremost priority is to scale up our vaccination campaign to reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, in every part of our country.

However, we need to delay the increase in infections for as long as we can to allow more of our most vulnerable citizens to be protected.

Every week that we delay the peak of the third wave allows us to vaccinate hundreds of thousands more people, and may well save their lives.

This is why it is crucial for us to act now, and to act together, to limit the spread of the virus by wearing a mask, avoiding gatherings and indoor spaces, keeping a distance from others and washing or sanitising our hands regularly.

With the acceleration of the vaccine programme, we are getting ever closer to overcoming the pandemic.

We cannot give up now. We cannot let down our guard.

It is up to each and every one of us to protect ourselves, our families and our communities until we are all vaccinated.

I ask you to summon your strength, your courage, and your tenacity as South Africans to stand together and to hold back this third wave.

We can and we will succeed, as we have succeeded before.

God bless South Africa and protect her people.

I thank you.

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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY REVIVES WARD COUNCILLOR'S FORUM



The Newcastle Municipality's Speaker of Council, Cllr Samkelisiwe Yende through the Public Participation Unit in conjunction with the IDP Unit took the initiative of reviving the much-needed ward councillor's forum. The establishment of this structure is in line with the ward operational plan and the Newcastle municipality's Public Participation strategic document that was adopted by council in 2018.

The intention of the forum was to afford ward councillors a platform to work with various sector departments, in a bid to tackle service delivery related issues, and ultimately find long lasting solutions in their respective wards. The platform will also ensure that service delivery is accelerated and that there is better communication between ward councillors and the communities they serve.

Stakeholders such as Department of Transport and COGTA together with various departments within the Newcastle municipality were invited to give detailed presentations aimed at empowering ward

councillors with the necessary skills to deal efficiently with their community's service delivery issues. This was also aimed at ensuring that there is synergy whenever organizations worked together.

Newcastle Speaker of Council, Cllr. Samkelisiwe Yende applauded the resuscitation of such an initiative and highlighted that this platform could be used to measure the progress of service delivery across all wards.

"The purpose of these meetings is to create a direct communication and relationship between ward councillors and the various departments. But most importantly, it is to inform and broaden the communities understanding of different functions of various government departments. A platform of this nature can also be used as a measuring tool to assess service delivery progress in their wards" remarked Cllr Yende.

The next meeting for the Ward Councillor's Forum is expected to be convened in the next quarter.

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GIVING PUPILS A HEAD START

The Newcastle Municipality Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Reuben Molelekoa, through the Special Programmes Unit, embarked on the 2021 “Back to School” campaign aimed at assisting economically disadvantaged local primary and high school pupils and their families as they kick-start the academic year.

The Deputy Mayor's Back to School campaign, in partnership with the Dr Thusi Cares Foundation, founded by General Practitioner, Dr Nokulunga Thusi donated 80 pairs of school shoes to each of the nine beneficiary schools within the Amajuba District. With careful consideration of the growing number of students that require such assistance, this year's Back to School campaign took place over a five-day period, which was from 26 February to the 4 March 2021.

The schools that benefitted from the initiative are Mlamuleli Primary; Vukani Primary; Masihambisane High School; Sizamokuhle Primary; Mtimande Primary; Siyalungelwa High school and Qhawelesizwe Primary. The recipients gleamed with joy, jubilation and excitement.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted the importance of aiding those that demonstrate the willingness to learn for the betterment of their respective families and communities at large, especially during these times of uncertainty.

“This is certainly a worthwhile effort, more especially in these unprecedented times. Children should never be deprived of their constitutional right to education, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances,” remarked Cllr Molelekoa.

Furthermore, Dr Thusi conducted a presentation to the learners on the importance of handwashing with soap, especially in the fight against COVID-19. The Doctor's presentation highly emphasized on how germs could be prevented, as well as stopping the spread of the COVID-19.

The Newcastle Municipality is a custodian of recognizing excellence in our communities. The municipality strongly believes in investing in the future of young people, and it is for this reason that the intake of recipients for the mayoral bursary program has been increased.



REPORT WATER LEAKS \ SEWAGE SPILLS - 086 014 4144



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NEWCASTLE'S 16-YEAR- OLD'S INVENTION A GAME-CHANGER IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS.



The Mayor of Newcastle Municipality, Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba had the privilege and honour to meet 16-year-old science whizz Suhaan Singh. This young science genius has made a name for himself after he used a Lego Kit to construct and modify a robot to automate the Covid-19 screening and sanitizing process. As a result, he has been selected to represent South Africa in the 2021 Virtual Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the United States of America. Singh also made a name for himself after he won a bronze medal at the 2020 Eskom science competition.

The mayor was thrilled and overly impressed with Suhaan's ingenious invention. Cllr Mahlaba assured the budding scientist that the municipality would explore other avenues to support his idea. The prodigy's brainchild is a much-needed solution in our fight against the global pandemic.

Suhaan's invention is a clear indication that

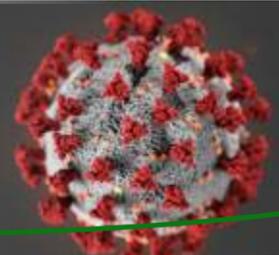
the youth are already leading the way and playing a critical role as we head towards a digitized world. This robotics invention epitomizes the government's efforts to encourage innovative thinking aligned to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Such initiatives must be supported at grassroots level.

As a gesture and a token of appreciation on behalf of the residents of Newcastle, Dr Mahlaba gifted the science whizz with a brand-new mobile tablet to assist him in his studies. Furthermore, the impressed mayor saw it befitting to present him with a grade 12 physical science textbook, as it will also prepare him for the academic year ahead.

"As a caring municipality which prides itself in supporting academic excellence, I want to extend a similar invite to other young people across Newcastle who are doing amazing things. Let us continue to put our amazing town on the map for all the right reasons," remarked Cllr Mahlaba.



WASH YOUR HANDS. SANITISE. SOCIAL DISTANCING



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KZN COGTA MEC HLOMUKA AND NEWCASTLE MAYOR HAVE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED A MULTI-MILLION RAND WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT IN NEWCASTLE

As a massive boost to the rollout of water and sanitation infrastructure to the townships in the province, KZN MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Sipho Hlomuka, together with the Mayor of the Newcastle Local Municipality Cllr Mahlaba, have launched a multi-million-rand water and sanitation project in the Osizweni Township.

The project, which brings water and sanitation services to hundreds of households in Osizweni, has been hailed as a

ground-breaking initiative aimed at improving the state of water and sanitation infrastructure within this established township.

KZN COGTA, under the leadership of MEC Hlomuka, invested millions in this project which has now been completed. The project brings dignity to the local residents who now have access to services that are increasingly being enjoyed by previously disadvantaged communities across the province.

The department has also invested millions of Rands in the expansion of the Osizweni Water Treatment Plant, which is currently undergoing a reconstruction phase that will secure the future of the municipality's sanitation capacity.



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NEWCASTLE'S FIRST CITIZEN GETS THE COVID-19 JAB!

In the peak of Coronavirus last year, Newcastle Municipality mayor, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba swapped his mayoral chain for the stethoscope when he volunteered at the local hospital to treat Covid-19 patients. It was during this time that the mayor was diagnosed with Covid-19 and had to self-quarantine.

Almost a year later, being a Covid-19 survivor, the mayor received his Coronavirus vaccine. Despite the ongoing myths about the vaccine and the 5G myth, the mayor has encouraged the elderly and medical personnel to vaccinate. Dr Mahlaba says the mass immunisation will slow the spread of the virus and quicken the pace for a normal Covid-19 free environment. Dr Mahlaba also urged society to ignore untested rumours about the Covid-19 vaccine.

"I believe that taking the vaccine will bring us closer towards building national immunity, which is necessary for us to fight this pandemic of Covid-19 and I will encourage others to follow suit and ensure that they visit vaccination centres. As a medical doctor who took the oath, I am ready to go and serve my community again," remarked Dr Mahlaba.

The mayor says if ever he is called for duty to serve his community by volunteering, he would not hesitate and will wear his medical hat in a heartbeat. Dr Mahlaba pleaded with South Africans to continue taking extra precautionary measures, by always wearing masks and sanitizing. He says the Covid-19 third wave will be deadly unless we are cautious.



CELEBRATING AND REFLECTING ON THE 20 YEARS JOURNEY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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MAYOR ENGAGES COMMUNITY LEADERS



Newcastle Municipality Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba embarked on a series of engagements with leaders of the community. The first engagement series was with Traditional Leaders and was held on 12 May 2021 at the Council Chambers."

On 27 May 2021 the mayor, alongside the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Reuben Molelekoa, Chief Whip Cllr Dolly Mnguni and acting Municipal Manager Vish Govender, led off the second engagement series with Interfaith leaders at the Newcastle Farmers Hall.

The aim of these engagements is to

recognize the role of interfaith leaders and civic organisations. An involved community is one which is easier to provide access to resources that citizens value and need. Therefore, the Newcastle Municipality deems it necessary to initiate such engagements as a step towards building an informed community. These engagements also serve as platforms to raise common societal issues.

As part of the engagement series, the house packed with interfaith leaders sought God's intervention and

guidance through the fast-approaching local government elections.

Newcastle Mayor, Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba emphasized that prayer is one of the most effective and efficient responses to social scourges.

"With this prayer, we aim to promote peaceful elections and for God to ordain the rightful leaders to carry the mandate bestowed upon them," remarked the mayor.



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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY ECO-BRICKS COMPETITION PRIZE GIVING



The Newcastle Municipality's Waste Management Department awarded seven rural schools within the Amajuba district with Eco-brick certificates, gardening equipment and a much-needed recycling machine which will assist generate additional revenue for the schools. The event which was held at the Osizweni community hall was attended by the acting Municipal Manager, Mr V Govender and Newcastle Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Reuben Molelekoa.

Back in 2019, the Newcastle Municipality put the participating schools to a test, to which the schools were tasked with building structures using eco-bricks. This exercise not only afforded learners the opportunity to learn new skills, but it also taught them the importance of environmental preservation.

The Eco-brick project derives from the concept of turning waste into valuable materials for various purposes (cradle-to-cradle). An eco-brick is made from empty plastic bottles, tightly packed with non-recyclable materials, particularly soft plastic which then eventually becomes a strong and durable building block.

The aim of this fun and yet impactful competition is to encourage good waste management practices, by educating pupils on the importance of Reducing, Reusing and Recycling to maintain an eco-friendly environment.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Rueben Molelekoa highlighted on the importance of Eco Brick projects and said that this project brings a 360-degree spin to the recycling system because it entirely focuses on redirecting the lifespan of non-recyclable material and simultaneously alleviate pressure from landfill sites.

"The concept of Eco bricks is one way which can help reduce the littering in our communities and teach people that there is value in waste," remarked Cllr Molelekoa.

The participating schools are as follows:

- Cebelihle Primary School
- Khulakahle Primary School
- Qophumlando Primary School
- Sphumelele Primary School
- Hlabana Primary School
- Indoni Primary School
- Muzikayise Primary School

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2021 YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The youth of Amajuba District have certainly taken up their space in the 2021 Youth Parliament. The occasion presented by the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) in partnership with the Newcastle Municipality, the Department of Education and Schools Democracy was held at the Council Chambers.

Newcastle Municipality Speaker of Council, Cllr Samkelisiwe Yende presided over the fused Youth Legislative Assembly. As the Chair of the estimable Assembly, Cllr Yende began the session by welcoming all present delegates to the 2021 Youth Parliament and touched on the significance of the day. The aim of this programme was ensure the commitment on continuous civic and democratic education and to promote issues around electoral policies relating to the youth.

The young honourable members of Parliament opened the debating session on the substantially controversial topic: "Is the South African Democracy serving you?"

The young minds engaged in an intense debating session, where the affirmative team raised solid points on democracy,

which were firmly met by opposing viewpoints.

The highly fierce debate led the house to thoroughly question the entire concept of democracy, as exposed the undeniable cracks that exist within the South African Democracy.

The house adjourned with the conclusion that the South African Democracy is indeed serving the Youth, although it is still a working progress. We simply cannot undo years of injustices by the oppressive regime overnight.

Newcastle Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba graced the Council Assembly to encourage the young scholars. Quoting Oliver Tambo, the mayor said, "The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value it's youth and children does not deserve its future." The mayor also emphasized that democracy comes with the responsibility of being accountable for what we become.

The aspiring Members of Parliament of



the Republic of South Africa were awarded gold medals to encourage the erudite minds to continue dedicating themselves to narrowing and bridging the gaps that exist within our democratic policies.

The participating schools were also awarded with certificates of appreciation for actively participating in the Amajuba District Youth Parliament.



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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY INSPIRES CRADLE-TO-CRADLE RECYCLING

Over 70 environmental enthusiasts gathered at the Farmers Hall in Newcastle, to volunteer for the municipality's recycling program, which is aimed at upskilling and providing entrepreneurial skills. The program is also targeted towards raising economic awareness about the recycling industry, and how reusable material can be turned into profit.

This initiative is a joint venture by the Newcastle Municipality with the United Nations Environment Program, CSIR, PET.co and EDTEA, DEFF, and other stakeholders. The launch is the first of its kind and will see to the introduction of the first environment expert group who will be trained as waste pickers in Newcastle as part of the Separation at Source campaign.

This program which is currently spearheaded by the Newcastle Municipality's Technical Services Unit, with the assistance and support of other sister organizations is certain to empower and groom local waste pickers. The municipality and these organizations will equip the waste pickers with the necessary financial skills, which will boost their entrepreneurial abilities.

The program also seeks to inspire the cradle-to-cradle waste management concept which will essentially result in sustainable economic growth for the newly waste pickers and their communities.

Newcastle Speaker of Council, Cllr Samke Yende emphasised the important role of waste pickers. Currently the country's recycle rate is sitting at whopping 80%, however through informal waste pickers that rate can further be increased to achieve a recycle rate of 92%.

“Entrepreneurial skills ought to be emphasized to better shape today's economy. The waste picking sector is something we should start shining a spotlight on and stop crippling. The waste picking trade plays a critical role because it not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also boosts local economies,” Remarkd Cllr Yende.

Dr Thava Kelly from the Newcastle Municipality's Technical Services Unit also



shared the Speaker' sentiments and emphasised that the Newcastle Municipality was privileged to have been part of the Separation at Source pilot project. Dr Kelly also highlighted that the findings of the study will benchmark waste management practices in other municipalities and possibly in the whole of Southern Africa.

The zealous recyclers will contribute to climate change and global cooling by reducing the amount of waste material entering landfill sites. The group of enthusiastic waste pickers were given bulk bags as part of their working equipment, as they venture to the recycling business, courtesy of PET.co. The plastic company has also committed to offer support for recycling SMMES in the form of equipment.

In addition, the Tribe Impact Consulting company will ensure that the recycling trainees receive certificates to authenticate their skillsets and incentivize continuous learning and development.



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BLESSED IS THE ONE WHOSE DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, AND WHO MEDITATES ON HIS LAW DAY AND NIGHT."

Psalm 1:1-3

The Newcastle Municipality Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba together with Deputy Mayor, Cllr Rueben Molelekoa, Speaker of Council Samkelisiwe Yende and Chief Whip Cllr Dolly Mnguni headed out the Aletheia Christian College to hand out bibles to 35 young minds.

This thoughtful drive held on 28 May 2021 was aimed at re-instilling the importance of reading, learning, and attending school in the Era of COVID-19. Furthermore, it also had the primary purpose of reminding the young minds of the importance of following the teachings of the bible.

Citing from the book of 2 Timothy 3:15-17 that reads "And you know that from childhood you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

Mayor Mahlaba said that these words frame and captures the essence of why it is important for young people to own the book of Life. " If you don't read you won't gain additional knowledge resulting in you remaining stagnant. If you don't stimulate your brain it is not going to work as effective as it should, Today we are gifting you with this reading material to restore your understanding of Christianity and how your relationship with God should be", alluded Dr Mahlaba.

Speaker of Council, Cllr Samkelisiwe

Yende also elucidated that the Bible is an integral part of our society and that it deserves a place in the classroom. Cllr Yende said that It is very paramount to teach children to read at a very young age, to unlock their knowledge.

"We are here to honour and celebrate you. It is paramount that we

encourage you to keep reading and learning as your future looks bright and promising. Also keep in mind that the more you read, the more knowledge you going to have. Word of God is sharper than any double edge sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit," remarked Cllr S Yende.



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WHAT THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINES AND VACCINATION SITES

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine



What is the Johnson & Johnson Vaccine?

The Johnson and Johnson Vaccine, also known as the J&J vaccine is a single dose injection that's been found to be both safe and effective at preventing COVID-19 and is the third COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for emergency use in the United States.

How effective is the J&J Vaccine?

The efficiency of the J&J vaccine was tested in a clinical trial involving more than 40 000 people. The results from the trial concluded that the J&J vaccine could prevent against mild to moderate and severe to critical cases of COVID-19. Furthermore, it provides 100% protection from hospitalization for COVID-19 28 days after vaccination.

Mild – moderate cases

J&J vaccine's efficacy for mild to moderate COVID-19, 14 days after vaccination was:

- Overall: 66.3%
- United States: 74.4%
- Brazil: 66.2%
- South Africa: 52%

Severe – critical COVID-19 cases

J&J vaccine efficacy for severe to critical COVID-19 14 days after vaccination was:

- Overall: 76.3 percent
- United States: 78 percent
- Brazil: 81.9 percent
- South Africa: 73.1 percent

Additionally, individuals receiving the J&J vaccine were

less likely to be hospitalized than those who didn't receive the vaccine. In fact, the J&J vaccine was 93 percent effective at preventing hospitalization for COVID-19 14 days after vaccination and 100 percent effective 28 days after.

How long will the J&J vaccine protect you?

This information is currently unknown however studies are still ongoing.

How does the Johnson & Johnson vaccine's efficacy compare with Pfizer's?

Data retrieved from clinical trials concluded an efficiency of 95%, 7 days after the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Should some people avoid taking the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

People who experienced a severe or immediate allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the J&J vaccine should not receive the J&J shot.

Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine



What is the Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine is a COVID-19 vaccine made by Pfizer-BioNTech and was granted approval for emergency use and requires two doses. It is suitable for individuals ages 16 years and older. The Pfizer vaccine is similar to the Moderna vaccine.

Efficiency timeline

To be fully effective, the Pfizer vaccine requires two doses, ideally 21 days apart. The vaccine has shown to have a high efficiency rate after a single dose of up to 85%

Efficacy against variants

No vaccine is 100 percent effective for everyone. This means there will still be COVID transmissions in vaccinated people. This is to be expected. Regarding the variants, the Pfizer vaccine has been found to significantly reduce the rate of transmission and serious illness.

What's known about the short-term effects of the vaccine?

The short-term side effects of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines are similar.

The side effects typically start within a

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day or two of getting the vaccine and may include:

- pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- fatigue
- fever
- chills
- headache
- body aches and pains
- nausea
- swollen lymph nodes

Should you get the vaccine if you're pregnant or breastfeeding?

You can receive the vaccine if you're pregnant or breastfeeding. If you have questions or concerns about getting the vaccine, talk with your healthcare provider.

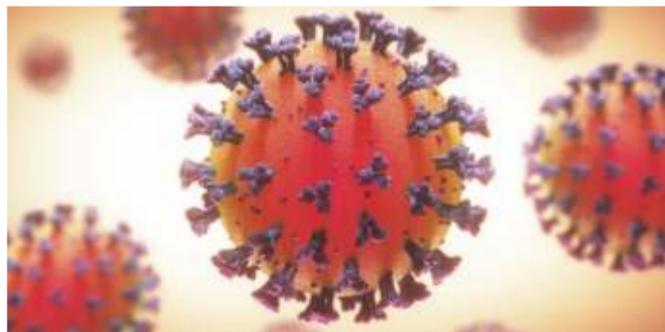
Do you still need to take precautions after getting the vaccine?

If you've already received the COVID-19 vaccine, you'll still need to take precautions, such as:

- wearing a mask
- practicing physical distancing
- frequent handwashing
- avoiding crowded areas or indoor spaces that are poorly ventilated

laboratory results of [efficacy for each vaccine include:](#)

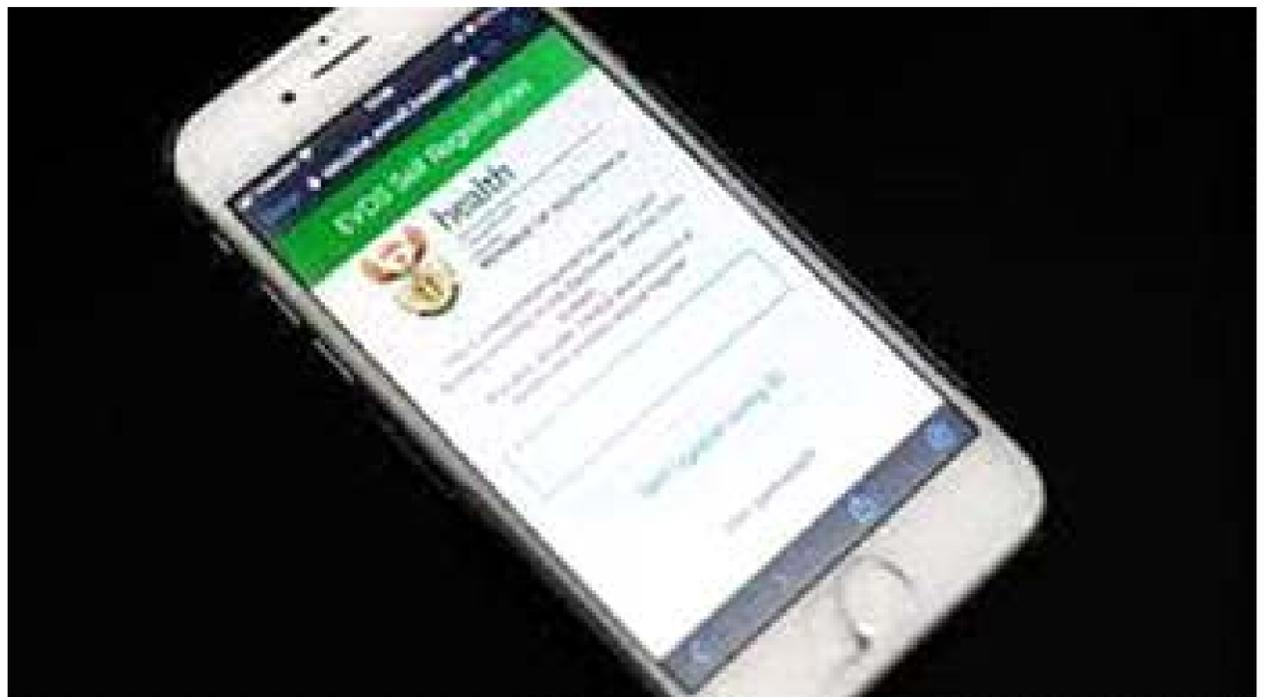
- Pfizer: 95 percent efficacy in preventing an infection in people with no prior infections.
- Moderna: 94.1 percent effective at preventing a symptomatic infection in people who have not previously contracted a coronavirus infection.
- Johnson & Johnson: 72 percent overall efficacy and 86 percent efficacy against severe illness.



- MADADENI HOSPITAL
- NEWCASTLE HOSPITAL
- MADADENI HALL
- OSIZWENI HALL
- THEKU PLAZA
- RICHVIEW HALL
- FARMERS HALL
- FAIRLEIGH COMMUNITY HALL
- PIONEER PARK SHOPPING CENTRE

Operating Hours: 08:00am – 16:00pm
7 days a week
Contact Numbers: 034 328 7051 /7028

How to register for the COVID-19 Vaccine?



There are five ways to register on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS):

- Online at vaccine.enroll.gov.za.
- Using the WhatsApp line 0600 123456.
- Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
- Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.
- Citizens can also use the new QR by simply scanning and following the prompts

References:

<https://www.healthline.com/health/adult-vaccines/johnson-and-johnson-vaccine-efficacy#how-j-j-compares>

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/should-you-take-pain-relievers-after-covid-19-vaccine#Dont-take-a-pain-reliever-before-your-COVID-19-vaccine>

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TENDERS & VACANCIES



BID NOTICE - NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY

BID NO	BID NAME	DOCUMENT FEE	PRE - QUALIFICATION CRITERIA	TECHNICAL ENQUIRIES	COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION/DATE	BID DOC. AVAILABILITY	CLOSING DATE
A045-2020/21	Request for a service provider for the provision of specialised services in the field of creative video production and	R300.00	N/A	Mr L Short 034 328 8616	The Tower Block, 37 Murchison Street, Newcastle 4 th Floor Boardroom B401 3 June 2021 @ 10h00	From 20 May 2021 Until 18 June 2021	23 June 2021
A002-2020/21	Calls for Proposals to Erect, Maintenance and Operations of 120 Street Pole Advertising within the boundaries of Newcastle Municipality to be used for third party advertising	R300.00	N/A	Mr B Thusi 034 328 7878	N/A	From 20 May 2021 Until 18 June 2021	23 June 2021
A029-2020/21	Calls for Proposals to Design, Maintenance and Operations of 25 Outdoor AD lites within the boundaries of Newcastle Municipality to be used for third party advertising	R300.00	N/A	Mr B Thusi 034 328 7878	N/A	From 20 May 2021 Until 18 June 2021	23 June 2021

The Newcastle Municipality hereby invites bids for the below – mentioned requirements, subject to Council's Supply Chain Management Policy: Bid documents are obtainable from the office of the Strategic Executive Director: Budget & Treasury Services, Municipal Civic Centre (Tower Block): 2nd Floor B218 Supply Chain Management Unit, 37 Murchison Street, Newcastle during office hours between 08h00 to 15h00 on the above mentioned date.

Banking Details -The Newcastle Municipality, Nedbank – Account No: 1162660066, Br Code: 133724 (the proof of payment must reflect the bid number and bidder's name as reference).

Procurement enquiries: Mr S Vilakazi/Mrs D Marais Telephone no.: 034 328 7818/ 7769 sabelo.vilakazi@newcastle.gov.za /dalene.marais@newcastle.gov.za

Only prospective suppliers who are registered on the National Treasury Supplier database are legible to bid. To register on the CSD log onto: www.csd.gov.za
Documents can be downloaded for free on the E- Tender Portal @ www.etenders.gov.za

Bids will be adjudicated in terms of the Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017 pertaining to Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 5/2000 and other applicable legislations and other applicable legislations, and will be based on 80/20 points system. Preference points will be awarded to service providers using their B-BBEE status level of contribution. The bids will remain valid for 90 days. The Council reserves the right to accept all, some, or none of the bids submitted, either wholly or in part and it is not obliged to accept the lowest bid.

Completed bids in plain sealed envelopes, endorsed "Bid number and description" bearing the name, address and bidder's contact details at the back of the envelope should be placed in the bid box provided at the Municipal Civic Centre (Tower Block 1st Floor Rates hall) in 37 Murchison Street, Newcastle by no later than 12:00pm of the closing date where bids will be opened in public. The bid box can only be accessible during the office hours.

Mr. V. Govender
Acting Municipal Manager

JOBS AND TENDERS ARE NOT FOR SALE



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