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PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA'S SPEECH ON PROGRESS IN THE NATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: ALERT LEVEL 4 LOCKDOWN

Fellow South Africans,

Our former President Nelson Mandela once wrote:

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way.

"But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb".

As a country, we have faced two devastating waves of coronavirus infections.

We have overcome these by responding swiftly and decisively, and by acting together to contain the spread of the virus and protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

We now face another great challenge, another hill to climb.

Twelve days ago, I addressed you to warn that a new and deadly third wave of infections had begun in a number of our provinces, and was spreading.

The average number of daily new infections was more than doubling, hospital admissions were rising, and deaths from COVID-19 were increasing by nearly 50 per

cent.

As I address you this evening, the situation has gotten worse.

Along with many other countries in



Africa, South Africa is seeing a massive resurgence of infections.

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reports that a third wave of the disease is underway on the continent.

To date, African Union Member States have reported over 5.2 million cases and over 138,000 deaths from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 virus that descended on

our country in March last year has been continuing to mutate, creating new variants.

Our scientists tell us that COVID-19 virus has many variants.

Last year, we experienced the Beta variant.

In addition, we now have the Delta variant.

This variant was first detected in India at the end of March this year, and is now found in 85 countries.

The Delta variant spread like wildfire in India in an alarming manner.

The Delta variant has now been detected in five of our provinces, namely the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape.

The evidence we have is that the Delta variant is rapidly displacing the Beta variant, which has been dominant in our country until now.

We are concerned about the rapid spread of this variant.

Firstly, because it is more transmissible than previously circulating viruses, meaning it is easier to catch through person-to-person contact.

It is thought to be twice as contagious as the Beta variant.

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Secondly, because it is more contagious, it can infect far more people.

As with the previous variants, you can pass it on without even knowing you have it.

Thirdly, there is now emerging scientific evidence that people previously infected with the Beta variant do not have full protection against the Delta variant, and may get re-infected.

Fourthly, because it is much more contagious, the measures we have so far adopted to contain the spread of the virus may no longer be sufficient to reduce transmission.

There is also much we do not know about this variant.

For example, it is not clear that it causes more severe symptoms.

Preliminary data from other countries suggests that it is not more severe.

Reports from some countries, including on our continent, also suggest that infections and clinical illness in children may be more common with the delta variant, even as the overall rate of infection remains substantially lower than in adults.

The rapid spread of this variant is extremely serious.

Even if it is not more severe, the rate at which people are infected could lead to many more people becoming ill and requiring treatment at the same time.

We need to take extra precautions.

As of today, the 7-day average of new daily cases nationally has overtaken the peak of the first wave in July last year, and will soon overtake the peak of the second wave we experienced in January this year.

Gauteng now accounts for more than 60 per cent of new cases in the country.

With the exceptions of the Northern Cape and Free State, infections are rising rapidly in all other provinces.

We also must remain vigilant in the Northern Cape and Free State, which may experience a second spike of cases if the new variant spreads there as well.

We must all be worried about what we are seeing unfold before our very eyes.

Every one of us has a friend, a family member or a colleague who has been infected.

There are few in our country who have not

had to bury a family member, a friend or a loved one who lost their lives to this disease.

We are in the grip of a devastating wave that by all indications seems like it will be worse than those that preceded it.

The peak of this third wave looks set to be higher than the previous two.

The 1st wave lasted 15 weeks. The 2nd wave lasted 9 weeks.

We don't know how long this one will last, but indications are that it could last longer.

I know that is the last thing many of you want to hear.

We have all had to endure great hardship over the past year and a half.

We may have thought that with life slowly returning to normal, we could take a more casual approach to the public health regulations.

Perhaps we are fed up with wearing a mask on public transport and decide to keep it off one day. When we see nobody objects or complains, we stop wearing it. We go to social gatherings with a mask on, but take it off once we are inside.

When we meet our friends and loved ones we hug, kiss and shake hands, believing ourselves and them to be safe.

We continue to accept invitations to social gatherings and parties, and host our own.

The difficult truth is that complacency comes at a high price.

We must maintain our guard and continue to be careful at all times.

We must follow the public health regulations that are there for our own safety and the safety of others.

Safeguarding the capacity of our health facilities to cope with rising infections is a priority.

In several provinces, our public health facilities are stretched to their limits, and private facilities are also buckling under the strain.

Even as our hospitals have made extraordinary efforts to accommodate patients, ICU beds are in short supply.

What we are seeing is that the existing containment measures in place are not enough to cope with the speed and scale of new infections.

In considering what new measures we have to take we have drawn on international best practice and scientific data from studies across the world.

Our priority is to break the chain of transmission by reducing person-to-person contact and thereby help to flatten the curve.

Based on scientific advice we received from the Ministerial Advisory Committee and further consultation with our provinces and metros and traditional leaders, and on the recommendation of the National Coronavirus Command Council, Cabinet has decided that the country should move to Adjusted Alert Level 4.

Cabinet decided that to ensure that our response is appropriate and proportionate to the current situation, the additional restrictions we are announcing this evening will be in place for the next 14 days.

We will assess the impact of these interventions after 14 days to determine whether they need to be maintained or adjusted.

Therefore, the following measures are to be in place across the country from tomorrow, Monday, the 28th of June 2021 to Sunday, the 11th of July 2021:

All gatherings – whether indoors or outdoors – are prohibited. These include religious, political, cultural and social gatherings.

Funerals and cremations are permitted, but attendance may not exceed 50 people and all social distancing and health protocols must be observed.

Night vigils, after-funeral gatherings and 'after-tears' gatherings are not allowed.

Public spaces, such as beaches and parks, will remain open. However, no gatherings will be permitted.

A curfew will be in place from 9pm to 4am, and all non-essential establishments will need to close by 8pm.

The sale of alcohol both for on-site and off-site consumption is prohibited. Our

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Ministerial Advisory Committee has advised that the limited restrictions previously imposed were not that effective and that a prohibition will ease the pressure that is placed on hospital services by alcohol-related emergency incidents.

Because of the burden of infections in Gauteng, travel in and out of the province for leisure purposes will be prohibited. This does not include work, business or commercial travel, transit through airports or for the transport of goods.

If you are currently not in your place of residence, you will be allowed to return home to or from Gauteng.

Visits to old age homes, care facilities and other 'congregant settings' will be restricted.

Restaurants and other eateries will only be permitted to sell food for take-away or delivery. This is because it is not possible for patrons to wear masks while eating or drinking in these establishments.

The closure of schools and other educational institutions for the winter holidays will be brought forward.

Schools will start closing from this Wednesday, the 30th of June, and all schools will be expected to be closed by the end of the week, on Friday.

Contact classes at tertiary institutions will end by Wednesday, the 30th of June, with limited access to the institutions.

Residences will however remain open.

The Ministers of Basic Education and Higher Education, Science and Innovation will provide further details on these arrangements.

The measures that we are putting in place now are designed to allow as much economic activity to continue as possible, while containing the spread of the virus.

Most businesses will continue to operate at full capacity and should not be affected.

Our focus is on limiting social contacts while preserving the economy.

I want to emphasise that it remains mandatory for every person to wear a face mask that always covers their nose and mouth 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.

All employers must allow their staff to work from home wherever possible, and should postpone all non-essential travel and workplace gatherings.

Government will also be putting in place measures to reduce physical attendance of its employees at workplaces while limiting the disruption of government activities and services.

As we implement these restrictions, we are continuing to work to strengthen the capacity of our health system.

In Gauteng, the loss of significant capacity due to the ongoing closure of the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital is adding strain to other hospitals.

We are doing everything we can to provide additional bed capacity and speed up the re-opening of Charlotte Maxeke hospital.

At present, Gauteng has made available 830 additional beds by postponing elective surgery and another 400 beds constructed with alternative building technology that are now being activated.

We have been engaging with the producers of medical oxygen to increase their production to accommodate the anticipated increase in cases.

We are constantly monitoring PPE stocks and medicine stock availability so that we can intervene where we see declines in stock levels.

The Gauteng Department of Health is recruiting additional human resources to support increased workload.

The Solidarity Fund has provided R16 million to support the recruitment and placement of additional nurses in Gauteng hospitals to complement the military health team that has been deployed.

To ensure there is sufficient hospital bed space we have to reprioritise service provision to ensure there is capacity to treat those with severe cases of COVID-

19.

We are forging ahead with our rapidly expanding national vaccination programme.

The programme has picked up significant momentum with key milestones being achieved as we move forward.

As of midnight yesterday, nearly 2.7 million people in South Africa had received a vaccine dose.

In the last week, the daily vaccination rate surpassed 100,000.

In the last three days, we have received an additional 1.2 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and 1.4 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine through the COVAX facility.

With these additional supplies, we will be able to rapidly increase the rate of vaccination this week and in the weeks that follow.

In line with our national roll-out plan, over 950,000 health care workers have now been vaccinated across the country and the registration and vaccination of this cohort continues.

The second phase of our roll out has also gone well with the drive for the registration and vaccination of the over 60 year old group continuing to yield good results.

Whilst we have yet to reach all of the estimated 5 million citizens in this group, each province has now embarked on social mobilisation drives to assist our elderly to register and receive their vaccination.

To date 3.8 million people have been registered on the electronic vaccination database.

The national vaccination programme will continue along three defined streams.

The first stream is the general population according to age groups.

The next cohort of 50 to 59 year olds can begin registration on the 1st of July and vaccination of this group will begin on the 15th of July.

The second stream has already commenced with people working in the basic education sector, with 184,000 vaccinations recorded to date.

The third stream is focusing on police and other security personnel.

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We will start to vaccinate this group on the 5th of July.

The fourth stream is through workplace programmes in key economic sectors such as mining, manufacturing and the taxi industry.

I want to call on all who are eligible to register for a vaccine whether it is online, via SMS, by phone, or in person.

We will continue to work with our social partners and communities to reach as many people as possible as quickly as we can.

Fellow South Africans,

There is still a lot of misinformation being circulated about the COVID-19 vaccine.

False stories are being spread on WhatsApp groups, on social media, and by word of mouth about the COVID-19 vaccine, claiming that the vaccine is not safe, that it can make you sick, or that it doesn't work.

I have said it before, and I wish to say it again: please think long and hard before you press share or send.

Please consider the harm you may be causing.

You are spreading panic, fear and confusion at a time when we can ill-afford it.

The scientific evidence before us shows that vaccines work. They are safe. They are effective, and they save lives.

If you have any questions about the vaccine, if you are unsure in any way, please consult the information being provided by the Department of Health and from doctors.

You may also have questions as to whether the vaccines currently being used are effective in preventing severe illness or hospitalisation from the new variant.

There is evidence that the vaccines we are using in South Africa are effective against the delta variant.

The Vaccine Ministerial Advisory Committee will continue to consider all data at its disposal and will adapt its advice as and when new evidence emerges.

We must also remember that some vaccinated people may still become infected, regardless of variant, because no vaccine is 100% effective.

Where vaccinated people do get infected, the symptoms tend to be mild.

The most important thing is that any of the vaccines we are rolling out will protect you

against severe disease, hospitalisation and, most importantly, death.

I also want to remind the South African people that we must continue to follow the public health guidelines even if we are vaccinated.

Throughout this pandemic, our national response has been led by dedicated medical professionals, healthcare workers and scientists.

We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their professionalism and their dedication.

It is therefore extremely distressing when political leaders launch personal attacks against such people for doing the job they have been assigned to do.

We must remember that SAHPRA is an independent regulator that focuses only on scientific evidence to ensure safety, quality and efficacy in the interest of public health.

SAHPRA must be allowed to do its job without intimidation or political influence so that when vaccines are approved the public can be confident that the vaccines are safe, of good quality and will work.

Fellow South Africans,

Since our country reported its first case of this deadly virus, we have understood that we are all in this together.

As much as we had hoped this pandemic would pass quickly, we know the reality to be vastly different.

There may be uncertainty over the trajectory of the pandemic, but there is one thing that is certain.

We can and we must continue to protect ourselves in the best way we know how.

The tried and tested public health measures that have been in place remain our best chance at fighting this pandemic.

They are not complicated, difficult or expensive.

Whatever inconvenience they may be to us, they are certainly better than becoming seriously ill and needing hospitalisation.

We must always wear a mask in public.

We must regularly wash or sanitise our

hands.

We must always keep a safe distance from others.

Unless it is necessary, please remain at home.

If you are sick and have even mild COVID-19 symptoms, you must isolate yourself, including from your immediate household.

If you have been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 you have to quarantine for ten days.

If you test positive, notify the people you have come into contact with so they can protect themselves and others.

We are all responsible not just for our own health, but for the health of those around us.

While this pandemic may seem overwhelming, we can do something about it.

Through the choices we make, we can help to contain it.

We have come so far. We have weathered this storm for nearly a year and a half.

We have overcome many hurdles and setbacks.

We are still standing, because we are a resilient people that has overcome the worst many times in our history.

Now a third wave is gathering in strength and force.

Once again, we find ourselves at a defining moment in our fight against this disease.

Let us call on every bit of strength we have, let us summon our reserves of courage, and hold firm until this wave, too, passes over us.

We will recover.

We have climbed many hills before, and we will climb this one too.

We will do so by working together, as we have always done.

I say so because I believe in you, the South African people.

I know that you will continue to do what is right and what needs to be done.

And I know that no matter how difficult things become, we never, never give up.

May God Bless South Africa and protect her people.

I thank you.

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DEPUTY MAYOR BRINGS WARMTH AND LOVE TO MORESTER CHILDREN'S HOME

Newcastle Municipality Deputy Mayor Cllr Rueben Molelekoa, joined hands with Shumba Inc to donate blankets to the Morester Children's Home on the 24th of June 2021.

Winter is a harsh season for individuals who do not have the basic luxury of a blanket. It is for this reason that Shumba Inc took the initiative and donated 50 comfortable and warm blankets to the children of Morester Children's Home.

A representative from Shumba Inc said that their plan is to make winter a whole lot warmer for the Children of Morester.

"This is our way as Shumba Inc to make sure that our communities are well taken care of this cold winter and during this global pandemic that is upon us. We promise that this not the last time we come to MORESTER, we will definitely come back and assist where needed."

Speaking during the handover, Deputy Mayor Cllr. Molelekoa said that this donation came at the right time when the country was anticipating a harsher third wave of the Covid-19.

"The Covid-19 pandemic is still with us and the risk of getting sick is higher now since its winter. These blankets will help minimise risks for the young ones from catching the winter flu and cold. Everyone deserves to have a warm winter as possible, which is why even the smallest contribution goes a long way. We thank the private sector for the kind gesture. Indeed, blessed is the hand that gives," remarked Deputy Mayor Molelekoa.



Quote of the Week

"The fight against the Covid-19 is exhausting, demotivating and leaves one at the brink of giving up. But the virus does not give up, does not get exhausted or get demotivated. That is why we need to show who is in control and who can determine the spread of this virus. Let us bolster our efforts, reduce unnecessary trips and minimize transmission by adhering to strict regulations,"

Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.



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- 063 622 9645 AND GET A PUBLISHED RESPONSE



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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY MAYOR ENGAGES WITH STAKEHOLDERS



Newcastle Municipality Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba joined by Deputy Mayor Cllr Reuben Molelekoa, Speaker of Council Cllr Samkelisiwe Yende, Chief Whip Cllr Dolly Mnguni, and other stakeholders at Newcastle Farmers Hall on the 9th of June 2021, to review the 2019/2020 annual report.

The primary goal of this meeting was to ensure that, in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Local Government Municipality Systems Act 32 of 2000, The Newcastle Municipality has established a municipal governance culture that encourages and facilitates community and business participation in all aspects of the town's affairs. In addition, under section 121 of the local government municipal financial management and 56 of 2003, the municipality is required to prepare an annual report.

The compilation of yearly reports is governed by Section 46 of the Municipality Systems Act, 32 of 2000. According to the Newcastle Municipality's authorized policy on Public Participation and Financial Management, the annual report meeting 19/20 will focus on confirmed and assessed performance statistics. The ability to partner, involve, consult, and share information with relevant stakeholders is often a challenge for many municipalities, but the Newcastle Municipality has mastered the ability to partner, involve, consult, and share information with relevant stakeholders, as the crux of public participation is to provide

communication platforms to communities.

The value of the annual report, according to Acting Municipal Manager Mr Vish Govender, is that it provides the community with a highly dependable and comprehensive gauge of the municipality's progress toward its goals.

Furthermore, Mr Govender stated that the overall spending had been reduced by R26 081 709 during the previous three years. However, he noted that the 2% growth in revenue from 2019 to 2020 was lower than South Africa's 4.6 percent inflation rate. As explained by the Acting Municipal Manager, indicates the municipality's revenue performance was running at a level not adequate to cover the general increase in prices of goods and services, despite most tariffs being increased by 5% for rates and service charges.

Cllr Samukelisiwe Yende, the Speaker of the Council, stressed the importance of public participation in government. "Any democratic society's cornerstone is public participation. People are in charge and should constantly use their position to

hold leaders accountable for corruption, maladministration and incompetence." Remarked the Speaker.

The Newcastle Municipality Mayor Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba remarked that It is a privilege to present the 2019/2020 Annual Report for the Newcastle Local Municipality. "Reflecting on the previous year, we have a lot to be proud of, which has enhanced our sense of purpose as we continue to work with our stakeholders to achieve the municipality's Vision and Mission", alluded the Mayor.

In closing, under rigorous COVID-19 standards the Public Participation Unit successfully hosted and catered for roughly 100 guests. Municipal officials, local ward committees, numerous community forums, and officials from the Independent Electoral Commission and SAPS were among those in attendance, who provided constructive comments and positive discussion on the Annual Report presented by Mr Vish Govender which spoke most on some of the most pressing challenges facing individuals living within the Newcastle Municipality's authority.



REPORT WATER LEAKS \ SEWAGE SPILLS -
086 014 4144



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2021 CHILD PROTECTION WEEK



30 May to 6 June 2021, the country commemorated the 2021 Child Protection Week under the theme: LET US, ALL PROTECT CHILDREN DURING COVID-19 AND BEYOND.

Newcastle's Deputy Mayor seized the occasion to make a substantial donation to a local handicap centre. Cllr Reuben Molelekoa through the Special Programmes Unit donated much needed foam mattresses to Ntokozo Disability Care Centre in ward 12 on the 9th of June 2021.

Ntokozo Disability Care Centre caters for the needs of children with sever to profound disabilities. The facility currently has 16 profoundly disabled children enrolled at the centre. Given the lack of resources, the facility works closely with the Department of Education to facilitate educational programmes. In addition, the Department of Health also makes monthly visits to the centre to assist with disability diagnostic assessments.

Cllr Reuben Molelekoa brought the Department of Social Development (DSD)

into the fold, after he was made aware of challenges associated with running the centre. Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu made a visit to Ntokozo Disability Centre on the 11th of June 2021. This visit was to conduct a compliance assessment at various disability institutions across Amajuba District. Following the monitoring of compliance visit, DSD granted Ntokozo Disability Care facility support in terms of the provision of balanced meals to ensure the nutrition of the children. Furthermore, the Deputy Minister alluded that plans to build a new disability facility that will service the whole of Newcastle were afloat.

The Mayor of Newcastle, Cllr Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba applauded the work that the centre is doing for children with disabilities. "Child Protection Week cannot be observed without thanking educators of special schools for their role as care givers. What you do for these children is remarkable because not only do you look after the educational needs of children, but also their physical and mental health," alluded the Mayor.

The 2021 Child protection week was also a rather specular and eventful week for the Newcastle Municipality. The Special Programmes Unit embarked on a 7 day (from 4-11 June 2021) awareness campaign across numerous schools within the Amajuba District, with focus to rural schools in Newcastle.

This was an opportunity to raise awareness on the plight of children, and in line with Oliver Tambo's moving remark. "Any nation's children are its future. A country, a movement, or a person who does not value its youth and children does not deserve their future". The Special Programmes Unit supplied twenty Oxford dictionaries, twenty maths sets, and twenty Casio scientific calculators to each of the schools that they visited.

The following schools, Early Child Development (ECD) and Foster Homes were the beneficiaries of this campaign:

- Siyalungelwa High School
- Lincoln Heights High School
- Muzikayise Primary School
- St Lewis High School
- Kwethu Primary School
- Morester Children's home
- St Anthony's
- Phaphama
- Ntokozo Disability Care Centre
- Siphe'kthula

The town of Newcastle hopes that the 2021 Child Protection Week will serve as a spark for the entire society to work together to guarantee the safety and health of our most vulnerable citizens.



WASH YOUR HANDS. SANITISE,
SOCIAL DISTANCING



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NEWCASTLE MUNICIPALITY HOSTS A YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND REHABILITATION INITIATIVE

The Newcastle Municipality's Special Programmes Unit led by the Chief Whip Cllr Dolly Mnguni in a joint effort with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and other stakeholders on the 18th of June 2021, visited the Madadeni Rehabilitation Centre that offers treatment for substance and alcohol addiction.

This initiative is exemplified by a series of efforts seeking to assist with post rehabilitation, moral regeneration and curbing South Africa's addiction epidemic. Substance abuse remains a growing societal issue in the country and has emerged as a reason for the spike in crimes. This Youth Month, the Newcastle Municipality has chosen to focus on youth mental health and self-preservation.

A representative from the Department of Social Development, Nhlanhla Mbhele, led a group therapy session in which he addressed the stages of alcohol and drug recovery. He also stressed the important role that families play in a user's recovery journey.

Furthermore, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), which aims to enhance the skills, knowledge, and capacities of young people, seized the occasion to educate and motivate the audience to board onto the business sector. Ward 28 councillor, Cllr Ally Khoza, endorsed the effort and encouraged young people to become thinkers rather than drinkers. In addition, he urged the young men to refrain from experimenting with illicit drugs and alcohol, as these can result in negative health consequences and contribute to social scourges such as violence.

Substance users can call the South African Substance Abuse Toll Free Hotline at 0800 121314 or text 32312 to get help, support, and treatment.



REPORT CORRUPTION - HOTLINE NUMBER:
080 070 1701



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NEWCASTLE SPEAKER RECEIVES A MEMORANDUM FROM FAIRLEIGH RESIDENTS

Newcastle Municipality Speaker Cllr Samukelisiwe Yende has received a memorandum from Fairleigh residents and surrounding areas. The memorandum among other issues calls for the municipality to continue supporting efforts to end drugs and substance abuse in the aforementioned areas.

Speaker Yende has promised that the municipality will bolster its efforts in

fighting the scourge of drug abuse, especially among young people in Newcastle.

"Drug abuse remains a societal issue which we all need to fight together as a united block. As a municipality we will continue to rally our sister departments, such as Social Development and the SAPS to help us strengthen our efforts in fighting this societal problem," remarked the

Speaker.

The Speaker of Council thanked the residents for their efforts and zeal in fighting drug abuse. She urged the residents to continue participating in such activities, as this encourages good citizenry.

Substance users can call the South African Substance Abuse Toll Free Hotline at 0800 121314 or text 32312 to get help, support, and treatment.



CELEBRATING AND REFLECTING ON THE 20 YEARS JOURNEY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS AMAJUBA DISTRICT



The Deputy Minister of Social Development Hendrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu visited Amajuba District from the 3rd to the 16th of June to conduct an array of outreach activities as the champion of the district.

As part of the 2nd District Development Model outreach, the Deputy Minister will contribute towards the institutional stabilization of Amajuba District and the reprioritization process that seeks to respond to urgent institutional and governance gaps, and urgent development priorities outlined in the district's profile.

Accompanied by the local leadership i.e. The District Mayor, Emadlangeni Mayor, Newcastle Deputy Mayor Cllr Reuben Molelekoa and Newcastle Speaker Cllr Samukelisiwe Yende. The Deputy Minister conducted a series of outreach programs in the District

On the 15th of June 2021. The Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and MTN SA foundation celebrated 10 Years of a successful partnership by launching the much anticipated multimedia centre for learners in Thembalentsa High School in Osizweni. The launch forms part of a longstanding Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the

Department and the MTN SA Foundation. This ground-breaking facility is expected to spur the growth and support of scarce skills.

The multimedia centre with connectivity at MTN's cost for 24 months is a twenty-seater with an electronic curriculum. The centre is also fitted with an interactive board that allows the teacher to present the class subjects to the students.

MTN SA Foundation General Manager Kusile Mtunzi-Hairwadzi said the foundation aims to bring the power of technology and a connected life to those that are in need by contributing to national teaching and learning quality through its various initiatives.

Mtunzi-Hairwadzi also elucidated that the MTN SA Foundation has been working for the past ten years to provide information and communications technology driven solutions to help poor and vulnerable communities develop and uplift their lives. "This assistance includes a digital centre installation, as well as the provision of much-needed e-learning materials to remote townships, fee-paying, and special-needs schools".

Deputy Minister in partnership with MTN SA also handed over 100 bicycles to four schools around Amajuba District, where learners have to walk long distances to get to school. Each of the four schools will receive 25 bicycles.

The following are the schools that benefitted from the program:

- EMadlangeni Primary School
- Myayiza Primary School
- Ncandu Primary School
- Singqobile High School

In addition, 500 face masks were given to Vumani Sabelo, a school that cares for students with special needs.



ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY



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COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWCASTLES ASPIRING DOCTOR APPEALS FOR STUDY ASSISTANCE

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

"Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference."
Kathy Calvin

"For as long as I can remember, no individual has ever become a pauper or extremely poor by giving." These were the sentiments shared by Newcastle Mayor Cllr. Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba when he appealed to the private sector business leaders to assist Iziphozonke Mlambo, a young science genius who has made a name for himself after being selected in 2020 to represent South Africa at the GLOBAL REGENE RON SCIENCE TALENTSEARCH COMPETITION.

Mlambo will compete against hundreds of the world's brightest young scientists and innovators. He was chosen as one of the top 50 young scientists in the world to participate in the Stewards Science Honours Program at Biola University's Lim School of Science in LA Miranda, California, one of the world's most prestigious science programs.

Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba sounded the clarion, and a good Samaritan heeded the call by pledging to assist the science genius with R20 000 for transportation, as his scholarship does not cover the costs of travelling from South Africa. The donation will also cover his Health Insurance Plan that is mandatory for all international students and other related costs that are not covered by the scholarship. The total costs of his trip is R55 300. Mr Mzwandile

Khumalo, who initially insisted on remaining anonymous, was thrilled and overly impressed with Iziphozonke Mlambo's capabilities and bright mind. Mr Khumalo, a pharmacy owner in Newcastle, saw it befitting that he contributes towards making the young scientist's dream come to life. Mr Khumalo says it's a lifelong dream to assist the youth in his area.

Mr Mzwandile Khumalo is no stranger to such a similar occurrence of events, as he was also assisted by a stranger.

"In my final year of varsity, I was having the worst year of my life because I had lost both of my parents, and thus paying my tuition was quite difficult. I needed to find a part-time job. One day, I met a complete stranger who completely transformed my life and in return made me promise that when I am working, I will give back to at least one student every year. It was during the school vacations, and I was working in a pharmacy and the man had his business next to where I worked. He inquired as to why I was working during the school holidays when all of the students had gone home for the holidays. He was moved when I told him about my experiences. The man offered assistance in a most heartfelt manner. He offered me a R300 food voucher and I would go to his shop to take anything that I need every

month", remarked Mzwandile.

Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba reassured the aspiring scientist that the municipality will seek alternative options for assisting him in his career.

"We take pleasure in promoting academic success as a caring municipality. We continue to go beyond our mandate in assisting the youth in the area of Newcastle. I want other young people in Newcastle to know that anything is possible if you are focused and dedicated. I call upon business to invest in young people and empower them where they can," remarked the mayor.

Should anyone wish to contribute towards Iziphozonke Mlambo's study assistance, kindly use the following Banking Details.

Bank name: Capitec Bank

Account number: 1745756041

Branch code: 470010

Account type: cheque account

Account holder: Iziphozonke Mlambo

ACCELERATING SERVICE DELIVERY



Newcastle Municipality
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QUOTE OF THE WEEK!



“The fight against the Covid-19 is exhausting, demotivating and leaves one at the brink of giving up. But the virus does not give up, does not get exhausted or get demotivated. That is why we need to show who is in control and who can determine the spread of this virus. Let us bolster our efforts, reduce unnecessary trips and minimize transmission by adhering to strict regulations,”

Mayor Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.



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