



## Office of the Premier

North West Provincial Government  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# MEDIA STATEMENT

**Saturday, 08 August 2020**

### **NW Provincial Command Council deliberates on more strategies to flatten the curve**

**Mahikeng** – The North West Provincial Coronavirus Command Council yesterday, Friday 07 August, held its weekly virtual meeting to discuss the provincial strategies aimed at shaping up efforts to decrease the numbers of people testing positive for COVID-19 in the province.

This meeting was graced by the presence of Ministers and Deputy Ministers deployed to the province as District Champions to support provincial efforts to contain the spread of the virus. Amongst them was Minister of Tourism Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, Deputy Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Mr Obed Bapela and Deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Ms Makhotso Magdeline Sotyu.

Professor Salim Abdul Karim who is the Chairperson of COVID-19 Ministerial Advisory Committee, also joined the meeting and made a presentation which focused on COVID-19 vaccine trials in South Africa, during which discussions he reiterated that it is anticipated that the first set of vaccines could reach South Africa in a year's time.

In his engagement with members of the Provincial Command Council who appreciated and expressed their gratitude to him for making time to attend this meeting, Professor Karim emphasised the importance of adhering to the prevention measures such as wearing of face masks, saying this should be viewed as a measure that is of benefit not only to an individual wearing a mask, but to everyone they come into close contact with. Prof Karim says this principle of caring for others, or Ubuntu, can go a long way in getting together efforts to flatten the curve.

The Command Council also welcomed a progress report on the development of a Provincial Multi-pronged strategy which is centered on collaborating efforts to combat the pandemic in the province, this with a view to achieve a healthy community, during and beyond COVID-19. This process is led by Office of the Premier, Department of Health, South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The Command Council also reflected on developments in implementing the integrated risk readjusted and health response plan, and noted from the weekly Epidemiology Report that Bojanala Platinum District has in the past three consecutive weeks, registered a decrease in confirmed COVID-19 cases from 2 520 to 1 616 in the previous week, and is now at 1 119. The meeting noted however that it is too early to suggest that this District has flattened the curve, as this could be attributed to a number of factors.

The meeting noted that Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati still shows an increase in incidence, and that there is still a need to strengthen community awareness and adherence in this District and across all hotspots areas in the province.

The Command Council also welcomed a report by the Department of Health that the capacity for testing has been increased at Klerksdorp Tshepong and Job Shimankane Tabane Provincial Hospitals.

On the call made this week by the President of the Republic for provinces to provide information on COVID-19 related procurement, the Council expressed its full cooperation in this regard, with Premier Prof Job Mokgoro as the Chairperson of the Provincial Command Council stressing that all municipalities must also provide the required information and adhere to the set timelines.

In order to strengthen the District Development Model, the Council highlighted the significance of supporting the District Command Centres and the strengthening of existing COVID-19 Ward Based Structures.

The Command Council also welcomed interventions by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and stakeholders including Department of Water

Affairs, Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) and Provincial Treasury in developing a sustainable approach to the provision of water and sanitation in the province.

The Premier on behalf of the Command Council, urged members of the public to change their mindsets and observe the Coronavirus prevention measures which include the washing of hands with water and soap regularly or use of an alcohol based sanitiser, wearing a face mask when in public places, keeping physical distance and covering the mouth with a flexed elbow when coughing or sneezing. Premier Mokgoro says practicing these hygiene tips consistently is a key weapon to deal with the spread of this invisible enemy.

**ENDS**

Issued by the Office of the Premier, North West Provincial Government

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