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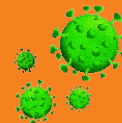


President Cyril Ramaphosa says SA must remain vigilant despite the excitement around moving to level 2.

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To: All Staff

Dumelang, Molweni, Goeie dag, Good day!!

"A ray of light is visible on the horizon after an immensely difficult five months", said President Cyril Ramaphosa.

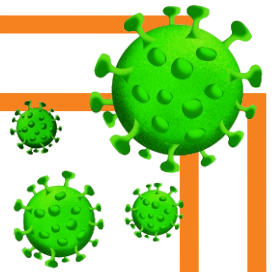
On the 15th of August 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa addressed the nation on the developments of South-African risk adjusted strategy in managing the spread of COVID -19. The country has moved to lockdown alert level 2 effective from Tuesday, 18th of August 2020 and this has taken citizens out of a hard lockdown by lifting some restrictions, however citizens are still expected to comply with the regulations under alert level 2 lockdown.

Whilst the further easing of lockdown restrictions will enable more sectors of the economy to operate and this will allow more movement of people including employees returning to work and inter- provincial travelling. The onus is still with the citizens to continue to adhere to COVID- 19 guidelines of washing your hands, physical and social distancing and wearing of face masks in public spaces.

In the midst of this horrid pandemic, the honourable Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr. Zamani Saul, further strengthened the provincial government, with the appointment of MEC Nomandla Bloem as the new MEC for the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison.

The Head of department and staff would therefore like to welcome the newly appointed Member of the Executive Council and commits to fully support her mandate of taking the department forward including the fight against COVID- 19 and the scourge of gender based violence, especially in the month of August which is dedicated to celebrating women in the country.

The MEC, Head of department and staff of DTSL, would like to convey their deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues at the department of education on the untimely passing of MEC Mac Jack.



Gender Based Violence outreach programme in Ritchie

On the 24th of July 2020, as a build up towards celebrating the International Mandela Day on the 25th of July 2020 at the Rietvale Police Station, the department in collaboration with the South -African Police Service (SAPS) and Women Against Crime embarked on an awareness programme in Ritchie following the recent spikes in cases of gender based violence.



The knock and drop reached approximately 400 people in Motswedimosa, Klipsaam, Mandela Square and Mandela Extension.

Officials from the department, SAPS, Women Against Crime and safety participants distributed pamphlets throughout these communities, to create awareness about gender based violence, different forms of violence and

where to report these acts of violence in order to fight against the scourge of gender based violence.



According to the Visible Policing Commander, Warrant Officer Alexis Thaisi, cited that gender based violence reported cases are mostly from the Motswedimosa and Klipsaam locations and these two areas were identified as gender based violence hotspots and alcohol being the main contributing factor as there is a tavern nearby and the consumption of alcohol may help fuel these violent acts. He pleaded with the community members to report these cases at the Rietvale Police Station or make use of the police emergency number and that communities should break the silence against all forms of violence against women and children.



The Acting District Manager for Safety Promotions, Mr Claasen mentioned that they have started piloting

this awareness programme in Ritchie, in order to send a strong message to communities to ensure that women and children feel safe and protected and that this programme will be extended to other regions.



Warrant officer, Thaisi said they will work closely with the local people and safety participants for they are familiar with these communities and this partnership will also make their job much easier in order to curb gender based violence.

Mandela Day Celebration at Rietvale Police Station

The 18th of July has been declared the International Mandela Day, but as South Africans we celebrate Mandela's life for the whole of July. We dedicate 67 minutes of our time to help those in need.



On the 25th of July 2020, the department through the safety promotions unit celebrated 67 minutes by refurbishing the Rietvale police station trauma room for victims of gender based violence and donated consumables such as blankets, bedding sheets, microwave, kettle, fridge, heater, bed, kiddies' toys, TV to the station and a toiletry package to three elderly women.

The trauma room was renovated to ensure that it becomes victim friendly for victims of gender based violence as this refurbishment will provide victims with an opportunity to make their statements

in private and in a non-threatening environment and should provide a comfortable overnight stay should they wish to sleep.

In the midst was the MEC for Transport, safety & Liaison Ms Nomandla Bloem, members of the Mayoral committee, SAPS officials including the Acting Station Commander and officials from the department.



MEC Bloem spent the 67 minutes by cleaning the room and painting the door, and with the help of her ministerial staff, decorated the entire room to give it a new look, she also thanked the department for this initiative and donations to the station, as this show that we care and show support to victims in order to fight against gender based violence that continues to torment women and children. She said it is disheartening to know that our elderly citizens (grannies) who are defenceless and frail are also victims of GBV and we should work hard to ensure that we put an end to it.

Acting station commander, Captain Rheeder conveyed his gratitude to the MEC and the department for the renovation and donations made to the station and that victims will feel comfortable. He further said that the victim room also provide victims with an overnight stay and in the morning they go home or are moved to the safe house.

Ms Irene Botman from the CPF and Women Against Crime organisation, works closely with the SAPS and provides temporary housing and food for victims at the backroom of her house, the safe house ensures victims are safe from their perpetrators as some do not want to return home and want to stay permanently in the house, she says the safe house is not big enough to accommodate a lot of victims and she needs some assistance from government so that she can house more victims.



WOMEN'S MONTH 2020

This year's Women month 2020 is celebrated under the theme: "Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future". #IamGenerationEquality.

Every year, women in the country are celebrated for their contributions of events in history and modern society, in this month we remember the thousands of women who marched in 1956 to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the pass laws.

Today, we bear some of the low hanging fruits of those women that embarked on that journey to ensure that women's rights are protected and to ensure gender parity, and we dedicate the month of August to all women in the country.

However, we are still faced with the ongoing struggle of financial equality, employment opportunities, sexual harassment, discrimination, gender based violence and femicide.

The struggle against gender based violence is one of the biggest challenges facing women today, women are being assaulted and murdered.

The responsibility is now on men and society at large to ensure that we no longer pay lip service to GBV but ensure that societal and government action against this scourge is finally dealt with and be treated as a national pandemic.

As we remember all those women who face discrimination, harassment and have lost their lives as a result of gender based violence we say, "Aluta Continua"



CONTACT US | DTSL COMMUNICATIONS

Please do not hesitate to consult the Communications Unit for any inputs, suggestions, information or programmes that you have or would like to be featured in the newsletter.

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