



# LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

**T**HARI YA TSELA



LE

**TSHIRELETSO YA SETSHABA**

## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

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## FROM THE MEC'S DESK



MEC: MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA

### YOUR SAFETY, MY CONCERN

The surging cases of Covid-19 in the current month has disrupted services in both public and private sector. The Department of Transport and Community Safety was also not spared. The Department's Headquarters (Phomoko Towers) was amongst the first to temporarily shut its doors and sent staff members' home after an employee tested positive to COVID-19. I want to take this opportunity and commend the management team for their swift response and subsequently follow all health protocols prescribed by the Health Department. The same measures were put in place in our district and satellite offices where cases were reported.

The Provincial Command Council which is led by Premier Stan Mathabatha has given a directive to all Government institutions not to close for a longer period for disinfection of their offices. The decontamination will mainly be confined to certain offices whilst the contacts go on isolation. The full resumption of operations in most sectors, warrants each one of us to be vigilant and take extra precautionary measures. We must minimize movement to other sections and offices in our respective work-places if not mandatory.

The wave of COVID-19 poses a serious security risk as some police stations in the province are shutting doors for decontamination. The closing of stations compels affected officers to go on isolation for days when they are needed most. We are well aware that unscrupulous criminals might want to take chances in areas where police stations are affected. It is important to indicate that although police stations are closed, services are still rendered by the police and that people seeking service can call the police's toll free number 0800 600 10111 or dial 112 for swift police response.

I recently visited Mphephu and Giyani police stations to monitor compliance to COVID-19 regulations. During my interaction with the officers and management, I emphasized on the importance of taking precautionary measures at all times. I am satisfied with their Covid-19 preventative strategies and their understanding of protocols and regulations. The health occupational Safety standards were satisfactory, we advised on urgent minor adjustments and I was assured that intervention will be made. The compliance monitoring

is ongoing and I will continue with the visits to district offices, our satellite workplaces, traffic stations, police stations and all other offices to ensure that you are safe.

SANDF members, Traffic and police officers are in the frontline where they are expected to be out enforcing Lockdown Level 3 compliance. The nature of their work requires them to have direct contact with civilians on a daily basis. As much as they are duty bound, they still have a responsibility of taking extra caution by making sure that they always have their masks, shields and sanitizers at all times. This will surely minimize the risks of contracting the virus or passing it to others. I have been assured that all our Districts and satellite offices have received sufficient Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to assist in the fight against the invisible enemy. Your safety will always be my concern because without you on the streets, the country will degenerate into chaos where lawlessness will reign supreme.

The responsibility of flattening the curve is not only limited to frontline officers, but requires a collective effort by staff within the security cluster. The safety of all employees is crucial as we move towards the peak of infections as predicted by the experts. We all need to take extra caution by practicing social distancing, regularly washing our hands with soap and water or sanitizer.

This must apply both at the workplace and in your social space. The only way to push back the infections is to observe the regulations, remain responsible and discipline at all times. It is indeed true that the matter is in our hands, let's continue observing social distance, sanitize and most importantly wear a mask every time you leave your home.

### Creating a safe workplace | To keep workers safe, employers must:



Make arrangements for **social distancing** at work



Provide **sanitiser** or facilities for hand-washing



**Sanitise surfaces** regularly



**Screen employees** for symptoms daily and **assist those at risk** to seek treatment



## FROM THE HOD'S DESK



HOD: MS HANLI DU PLESSIS

In a bid to flatten the curve of Covid-19 infections, the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety has rolled-out a screening and testing campaign for staff from 1 June 2020.

The screening and testing campaign – under the auspices of the Employee Health and Wellness Programme (EHWP) – will be rolled out in two categories. Category A comprises of essential service workers, security personnel, and general as

well as support staff who have been returning to work under level 3 lockdown regulations. Category B will target employees who were working from home and will be returning to work post the lockdown. The programme will cover the Head Office, District Offices, Traffic Stations and Institutions of the Department. According to Health authorities, people may show symptoms of the novel coronavirus after 14 days of acquiring the infection. Most common indicators of Covid-19 are fever, tiredness and a dry cough. I urge officials that are symptomatic to get tested.

It is upon us to help flatten the curve and fight this coronavirus. Please continue wearing your masks, practice social distancing and Hlapa Matsogo (Wash hands regularly).

Departmental Officials who want more information about the screening and testing campaign can contact EHW Officials (Mashudu Mwasi: 060 980 6288, Phuti Kgomo: 076 096 0871 and Peter Ramokgola: 083 857 1199) to assist with referral procedures to Department of Health for testing.

**S T O P**  
**C O R O N A V I R U S**

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## DISCLAIMER

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# EDITOR'S COMMENT

As we commemorate June 16, 40 decades ago, let us rewind a little further to the events that triggered the uprising. June 16 is no movie; pupils at the Orlando West Junior School went on strike in April 1976. The June 1976 death toll was 176, at least 23 deaths occurred on the first day. Thousands were injured. The police ordered township hospitals to report anyone receiving treatment for gunshot wounds, but doctors listed the wounds as abscesses.

The education given was very unequal. The then government spent R644 a year on a white child's education but only R42 on a black child. Blacks also were required to carry a passbook that designated where they could live and work.

A state plan for black pupils to be taught key subjects in Afrikaans began in 1974 and was taking effect in 1976. Pupils and teachers objected to having to learn and teach in Afrikaans.

During that time, Black South Africans could not vote or own property and were forced to live in isolated, impoverished rural communities.

The new dawn came in early 1990s, after nearly two decades of continued struggle, apartheid ended. 1976 youths' efforts paved the way for us to focus our energy on attaining the political freedom we enjoy today and serve.

This year June 16 is commemorated under the theme: "Youth Power: Growing South Africa together in the period of Covid-19".



## MEC HOSTS A DIALOGUE ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya hosted a dialogue on gender-based violence on Thursday 18 June 2020 at the Departmental head Office in Polokwane. The dialogue was in partnership with SAPS, Department of Social Development, Youth groups and Energy FM.

To defeat the unacceptably high levels of gender based violence in the province requires the collective effort of all the residents. Individually and collectively, there must be commitment to do everything in our power to claim every part of the land from those who terrorise women and children. The scourge of gender based violence has escalated to unprecedented levels in the province and requires a strengthened focus on changing attitudes and promoting positive behavioural change among men.

“Continue to participate, continue to be there, continue to mobilise on your social media groups about stopping Gender Based Violence and also in every sector where you are. Each day as you wake up, play your role. To all the men out there, declare it and say Not in My Name”. Said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.



### ACCESS TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE - POLICE STATIONS

- The South African Police Service continues to serve and protect during COVID – 19 lockdown
- Our police stations are open 24 hours a day
- Our premises are sanitized – your health matters
- The public is urged to minimize visits to police stations
- Only visit the police station when it is absolutely necessary to do so – reporting of crime/serious accidents
- Or alternatively access our services by calling our service lines



SAPS Crime Stop 08600 10111  
SAPS Emergency Line 10111

**SIMPLY DOWNLOAD MY SAPS MOBILE APP**  
My SAPS app is a free crime tip-off mobile application available for smart phones on Google Play Store and Apple App store



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE - AT YOUR SERVICE DURING COVID – 19 LOCKDOWN**



## DID YOU KNOW?



TRAINING COORDINATOR: FRLORENCE MATHATHO

Limpopo Department of Transport and community Safety HRM & D unit coordinates career exhibitions and skills development community outreach programmes to disadvantaged and youth especially those in the deepest rural areas of the Limpopo province.

Through the career exhibitions, the Department aims to showcase career opportunities available across the transport sector and recruiting youth in the Province, especially youth from disadvantaged rural communities. The aim of the unit is to reach as many youths as possible in order to alleviate circles of poverty and inequality prevalent in the Province.

There is a general lack of knowledge in the province regarding access to careers in the transport sector; particularly in the rail, aviation, maritime, engineering and transport economics fields and a critical shortage of skills in mechanical engineering and transport planning. The department has established partnerships with various stakeholders, particularly institutions of higher learning and private sector, for building and growing transportation skills.

The HRMD unit has a medium to long term strategy to grow professionals within the transport sector in line with the principles for the Provincial Growth and Skills Development Plan of promoting sustainable development through skills development. This is achieved through offering further training, skills, bursaries, learnerships and internships targeting youth in the province.

**“YOUTH POWER: GROWING SOUTH AFRICA TOGETHER IN THE PERIOD OF COVID-19”**



## MEC ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT AT GAAL



The Gateway Airports Authority Limited (GAAL) is preparing for the resumption of services when the country moves to Level 2 of Covid19 Lockdown. The airport was closed in March this year after disaster state was declared by the president of the republic. The local airport had to shut doors and send employees home to assist in curbing the spread of corona. The gradual re-opening of business brings exciting news to GAAL staff

members who are looking forward to resume with their duties when Minister of Transport Fikile Mambula gives them a green light.

Limpopo Transport and Community Safety MEC Hon. Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya had her first oversight visit ahead of the highly anticipated re-opening of the airport. She met with the Management teams and social partners (Labour Unions) to ascertain the challenges brought by the lockdown and the possible plan to resume in the next level. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya was taken on tour of the facility that has been deserted for months.

Just over 120 workers comprising permanent and contract workers will be expected back after the gradually re-opening and the plan is to keep them on rotational shifts to avoid overcrowding.

“I am looking forward to seeing everybody when we get a green light to resume with our daily operations, it will also give me a chance to come and check if we are COVID19 compliant. It is unfortunate that mass gatherings are still prohibited in the current level but will surely meet when the environment is conducive and safe for everybody” said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya. The reopening of the facility will give sustenance to hundreds of workers from fifteen (15) companies leasing space at the airport. Most of them were also forced to close due to the impact of the pandemic. Amongst others are Car rental companies, Network providers and those leasing hangers. The MEC has made an undertaking to go on a site inspection and to check compliance before the re-opening.





## MEC VISITS TRAFFIC CENTRE STATION IN POLOKWANE CITY



**MEC** for Transport and Community Safety: Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya together with the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality: Thembi Nkadimeng accompanied by various stakeholders, visited the Polokwane

Testing Centre to monitor compliance with the alert level 3 regulations. The Team was graced by the presence of Premier Chupu Mathabatha as part of the on-going Limpopo Provincial Command Council's measures to curb the spread of Corona virus through implementation of a risk adjusted strategy inward bound to the level 3 lockdown.

The Premier, the MEC and their entourage proceeded to the Provincial Traffic Station which is at an advanced stage in a process to offer other services like Registration of Vehicles and Renewal of Motor Vehicle Licenses.

The overall comment was all thumbs up in terms of compliance and state of readiness. However, the advice from leadership was that cleanliness is next to Godliness and ultimately good health.

Let us continue to wear masks, sanitize and observe social distancing!!





## MEC CONDUCTS INSPECTION IN-LOCO



**M**EC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya met with executive management, union representatives and other officials responsible for Facilities/EHW/OHS to inspect the department's head office premises and to substantiate the issues raised during her meeting with organized labour unions on Friday.

A walk-about was undertaken at Phamoko Towers and Snabasa Building. The areas of interests were

the Records Room, which deals with Face-value documents, hallways of all floors of both the two buildings, Cashiers offices, rest rooms and the traffic control room.

Issues that necessitated the inspection were addressed on site and labour reps were satisfied with the resolutions taken and the timeframes set for implementation.

Some of the resolutions were that:

- The premises should always be clean.
- Queues should be managed and monitored at all times.
- There should not be any social visits allowed in the building.
- More communiques and signage be developed and placed around all departmental offices.
- Those whose skin reacts to alcohol be considered when buying and placing sanitizers.
- All short-term issues which are COVID19 related be dealt with urgently.
- The safety measures taken at head office should apply to all district offices.
- The screening results and referral activities be confidential.
- temporary isolation coves be properly expedited.

The overall compliance was observed to be thumbs up.

Let us continue wearing masks, sanitizing or washing our hands frequently with soap and observing social distancing



All those **above the age of 60**, and those with **underlying medical conditions**, should leave home **only** in exceptional circumstances



Employers should allow them to **work from home** where possible, or put special measures in place to facilitate their **safety at work**



## MEC'S VISIT TO BEITBRIDGE



**A**s part of the JCPS Cluster's responsibility to ensure the safety of the people of Limpopo and to safeguard the province in general, the MEC for Transport and Community Safety:

Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya flanked by the Executive Mayor of Vhembe: cllr Nenguda, the Mayor of Musina Local Municipality: Cllr Muhlope, SANDF: Brigadier General Mulaudzi, Musina SAPS Cluster Commander: Brigadier Van der Walt, LDTCS Chief Director Mulaudzi and other noteworthy stakeholders visited Musina to monitor activities at the Beit Bridge Port of Entry and along the border line which included the influx of trucks crossing into Zimbabwe.

There have been recent complaints by truckers about the long hours spent at the boarder before crossing during the lockdown, illegal activities around the borderline which include illegal immigrants and guma gummas startling people along the borderline.

The MEC urged the District and Local Municipalities to continue working together with law enforcement on site to ensure that operations around the boarder are successful and also pleaded with truckers to exercise patience to enable officers to execute all obligatory protocols before granting them passes.

Walk about was done around the border post, a tour along the border fence and in the Limpopo river was undertaken. The media was also given an opportunity for interviews.

Eight (8) people were arrested on the spot as they were found along the borderline without proper immigration documents. The border fence had been broken recently if not on Tuesday night, along the Maroidrift area and the MEC will give a detailed report to the relevant Ministry. The MEC and Executive Mayor of Vhembe proceeded to join the virtual Provincial Command Council meeting, at Musina Beit Bridge Weighbridge, where arrangement was made for them to be able to join the meeting.

Let us continue wearing masks, sanitizing and observing social distancing.





## MEC MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA OFFICIALLY MEETS ORGANIZED LABOUR UNIONS



The MEC for Transport and Community Safety: Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya held 3 introductory virtual meetings with organized labour unions, NEHAWU, PSA and POPCRU separately. The meetings were attended by various executive members of respective

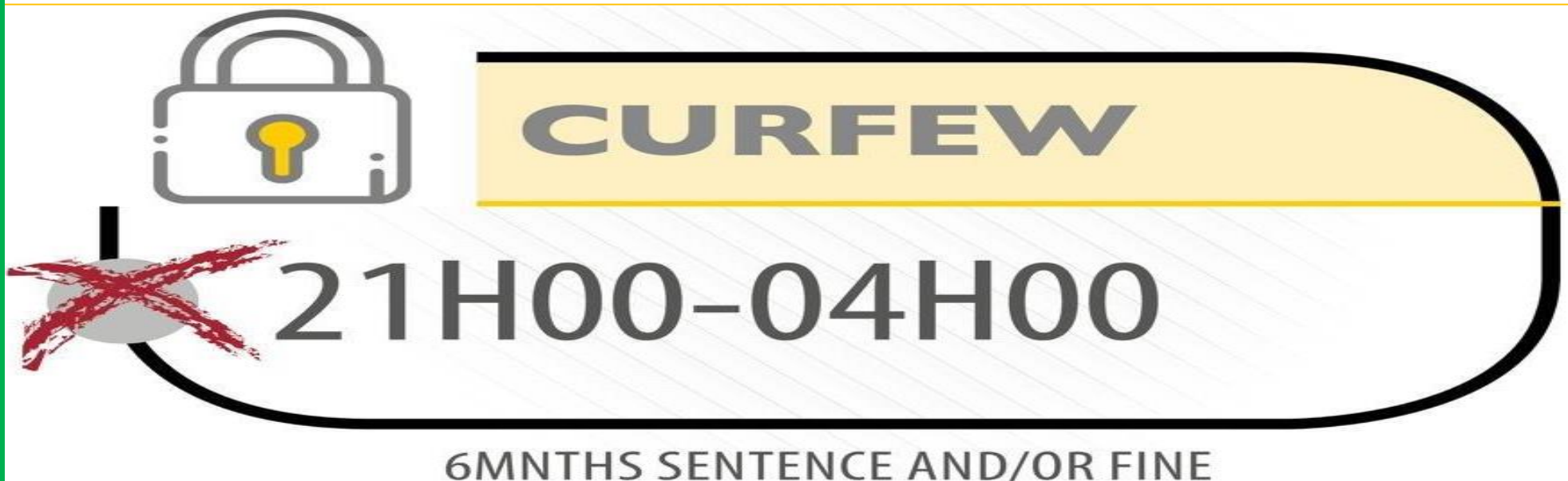
unions and Presentations were made to the MEC.

NEHAWU presentation was done by the Provincial Secretary: Mr J. Adams, PSA by the Provincial Manager: Mr T.J.Teffo and POPCRU by the Provincial Secretary: Mr H. Mashao. These were official introductory meetings (meet and greets) to smoothen the channel for possible future engagements and a build-up towards a desire for management/labour harmony.

The meetings yielded positive attitudes and a common desire to work together towards improved working conditions for public servants, sound working relations between labour unions and management and ultimately competent service delivery, and strive to the safety of the labour force of the department against Covid 19.

In this regard, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya has committed herself to conduct an inspection in-loco of the at Head Office on Sunday afternoon in order to satisfy herself on issues of concern raised by the unions.

As we are still under lockdown, let us not forget to wear masks, sanitize or wash our hands with soap frequently and observe social distancing!





## MEC VISITS THE FAMILY OF GBV VICTIM AT MODIMOLLE



**MEC** Lerule-Ramakhanya visited the family of Sinah Molefe, a 27-year-old woman from Phagameng township who was brutally killed by her boyfriend. She was found with multiple stab wounds in the family yard where she was left to die.

The accused was swiftly apprehended by the Modimolle Police and has already appeared in court. MEC told the family that the department will support police in opposing bail when the accused appear in court next again. The family

says the deceased had broken up with the accused few days before the fatal incident.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya says agents of Gender Based Violence should not find space to abuse the vulnerable women in the communities.

“We have a responsibility as the community to ensure the safety of the vulnerable groups, the Community Policing Forum must also play a role in identifying problematic individuals and take the matter up with Police. The culprits are amongst us and it cannot be business as usual” MEC Lerule Ramakhanya said.





## MEC INSPECTS SCHOLAR TRANSPORT AMID SCHOOLS RE-OPENING



**MEC** for Transport and Community Safety Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya monitored compliance to the 70% seating capacity by scholar transport operators in Seshego (Nelson Mandela Drive) as the Grade 7 and 12 learners were expected to return to

school. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya was joined by the Minister of Transport Dikeledi Mahadzi.

The entourage proceeded to inspect adherence to Covid-19 public transport regulations by the minibus taxi operators at the Polokwane Taxi Rank. They also did a stopover at the Mankweng Driving Licence and Testing Centre to check the state of readiness and compliance to Covid-19 directives.



The following activities **WILL BE ALLOWED** at Level 3, with strict health protocols in place:



**Restaurants for sit-down meals,** with limited capacity



**Personal care services,** including hairdressers



**Conferences** for work purposes



**Commercially licensed accommodation** (but not home sharing services)



**Cinemas, theatres and casinos,** with limited capacity



**Non-contact sports,** including golf and tennis



## PHASED IN RETURN OF THE DEPARTMENTAL WORKFORCE



Officials of the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety were screened for Covid-19 on Monday 1 June 2020 as they were returning to the workplace, in line with the Level 3 lockdown regulations that require screening of all employees.

The screening of employees includes both questionnaire

screening and temperature screening. The health and safety of the workforce is the department's priority as it considers to bring operations back to normal. All Departmental buildings were deep cleaned and the gradual and phased return of the workforce is in motion.

Changing employee behaviour, effecting new hygiene routines, observing social distancing, and applying best practice are important factors contributing to the successful reopening of our premises.





# ROAD SAFETY AND PERSONAL TIPS

## AVOIDING ROAD RAGE- ROAD SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Aggressive driving is a major concern and a real threat to the safety of all road users. Any unsafe driving behaviour, performed deliberately and with ill intention or disregard for safety, can constitute aggressive driving. In extreme cases, this may escalate to road rage, which is a violent criminal act involving the intention to cause physical harm.

Here are a few tips on how to deal with aggressive drivers, plus helpful hints to reduce your own stress while driving:

**Protect yourself:** If you are dealing with an aggressive driver, make sure your car's doors are locked. If you are stopped in the traffic, leave enough room to pull out from behind the car you are following. If an aggressive driver confronts you, call **10111** or drive to the nearest police station.

**Do not take it personally:** Be polite and courteous, even if the other driver is not. Avoid any conflict, if possible. If another driver challenges you, take a deep breath and move out of the way. Never underestimate the other driver's capacity for causing harm.

**Reduce your own stress:** Understand that you cannot control the traffic, only your reaction to it. In the end, you may find that personal frustration, anger and impatience are the real danger zones on the highway.

**Be a courteous driver:** You can set a good example, which can help make our roads safer.

- Control your anger.
- Avoid making eye contact with an aggressive driver.
- Do not make obscene gestures.
- Do not tailgate.
- Use your horn sparingly — even a polite honk can be misinterpreted.
- Do not block the passing

## BE CRIME CONSCIOUS - BE AWARE OF CRIME OPPORTUNITIES AT ALL TIMES!

Never walk around alone and do not talk to strangers.

Be on the lookout for strange cars or people.

Walk in well-lit busy streets and in a group, if possible.

Make sure your home is secure, and become a member of an armed response service. Be sure that you know all the emergency numbers or have them displayed in an accessible area.

Always let someone know where you are going and how long you will be gone. However, think twice before advertising your impending absence on social media.

- Criminals also have access to Facebook and Twitter.
- Know all emergency numbers
- Trust your instinct.
- Avoid going onto a congested street where you cannot even walk properly that is where you will find criminals pick pocketing.
- Avoid displaying valuables where criminals can see them