



MERAUFONG CITY

LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

1, CARLETONVILLE, 2500 - TEL: (018) 788 9500, FAX: (018) 786- 1105

www.merafong.gov.za

31 March 2020

STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR MAPHEFO MOGALE-LETSIE

Statement on observation by the Merafong City Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Maphefo Mogale Letsie on progress towards the fight against Covid-19.

Since the declaration of the National Lockdown by the President of the Republic of South Africa, President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Executive Mayor of Merafong City Local Municipality has observed that some of the Merafong City population has honoured the call positively by staying at home. While we honour those who have respected the instructions of the President, we also have observed a large portion within our populace who have total disregard to the call made by the President.

Some community members are freely roaming the streets of Merafong and that regresses our progress on the fight against the pandemic. These people who continue to disregard the instruction of the President are posing a severe risk to the ones who have committed to fight the pandemic. The municipality has made several requests to the South African Police Services (SAPS) to harness discipline. The community must positively contribute to the fight against this pandemic by staying true to the call of the President.

We are also aware that some of the pub and tavern owners still sell alcohol to the public on the side. Pub owners are aware of the restrictions put forth when the President declared the lockdown. We have appealed to law enforcers to pay specific attention to such individuals and the law must prevail and are also calling on the public to report such instances.

We have also realised that at funerals, bereaved families do not adhere to the guidelines and are urging community members to adhere to the guidelines by not allowing more than 50 people to attend funerals and must observe social distancing.

For the past 5 days we have noticed that shop owners and management have difficulty in adhering to the regulations regarding social distancing. We make a special appeal to shops and the public to take this very serious and to make sure that the spreading of COVID19 is limited at places where people gather at shops.

We express our real gratitude and appreciation to the businesses that are adhering to the regulations, providing sanitizers and keeping to social distancing.

Businesses who are not adhering to the regulations will be addressed by law enforcements.

By disregarding the regulations you are endangering yourself and those around you. This is something invisible but with devastating consequences.

Progress Made:

Taxis

On Monday, 30 March 2020 all the taxi ranks were cleaned and sanitised. The Public Safety and Fire Departments in partnership with the Taxi Association cleaned sanitised all the taxi ranks across the municipality with chlorine using fire trucks. Once again, the Executive Mayor applauds the Taxi Association for the cooperation.

The Executive Mayor had a meeting with the Merafong Taxi Association on Saturday, 29 March 2020, informing them about the regulations, they were supportive and agreed to comply. The Executive Mayor would like to thank and commend the Association for their cooperation. Some operators did not adhere to the regulations and we had to impound 35 taxis over the weekend and another 10 on Tuesday, 31 March 2020 across Merafong as they didn't adhere to the regulations.

We note that the managing of public transport of people to shops and for their social grants is a problem.

It is not the intention to make life difficult, the community need to implement self-discipline to protect themselves and those around them. The regulations are to improve the safety of the community, travellers and taxi operators

Homeless

The Municipality in partnership with the Department of Social Development, Department of Health and the South African Police Services have started with the removal of homeless people across Merafong identified the need to assist the

homeless. The Carletonville Sports Complex has been identified to accommodate the homeless across the City.

The municipality in partnership with the SAPS will be taking them to the Sports Complex as there are tents supplied by the Department of Health. Some homeless people have been walking into the Carletonville Sports Centre voluntarily for accommodation.

Due to changing weather conditions, the municipality has also opted to use the Sports Complex halls and other rooms for accommodation.

100 mattresses and 100 blankets have been secured through donations from social partners for this process. The Department of Social Development has also identified two NGOs to provide them with food. Meals will be provided on a daily basis and the Complex has bathing facilities (i.e. showers, toilets and taps). Toiletries will also be supplied to the homeless as and when they arrive.

The homeless are recorded as and when they arrive at the Centre for database and accountability purposes. There will be screening on site and if a person present with Covid-19 symptoms they will be referred to the testing station and normal health protocols will be followed.

Clinics and Testing Stations

The municipality in partnership with the Departments of Health and Social Development will be having all the clinics open for screening of COVID-19 across Merafong. All the clinics will be operating their normal opening times and patients that are sick are advised to go to the clinics for screening. If there are Covid-19 symptoms then they will be referred to the testing stations and normal health protocols will be followed.

The following testing stations hours have been identified in Merafong:

Monday- Sunday

Carletonville Civic Centre (08H00- 16H00)

Fochville Civic Centre (08H00-16H00)

Lastly, I want to take the moment and appreciate the diligent work done by our essential service workers. Despite all the challenges observed in discharging their function, the amount of determination displayed by these workers makes me and Merafong City Local Municipality proud. We are aware of the challenges

confronting them and pray that they continue without contracting any infection to discharge their functions promptly.

The political leadership shown by Councillors in the community is appreciated.

As the Executive Mayor of Merafong City Local Municipality, I call upon residents of Merafong City to be disciplined and stay at home. Your honour to the call will easily contribute towards the fight against Covid-19. I am confident that if we honour the period of lockdown diligently, we will overcome the scourge. The tool to victory is within your hands, use it wisely.

Remember to:

- Stay home
- Wash your hands
- Maintain social distancing
- Pray for our nation