

FTM NEWS

1st
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2020/21

STOP

THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Mayor mourn the death
of **Kgoshigadi Maphopha**

Schools re-opening

Premier **Mathabatha** monitoring mines

About
30 people
were arrested
Fetakgomo Tubatse for
breaking the Lockdown
regulations.

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Democratic Platinum City

A note from the Editor



Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality has joined hands with state institutions, private sector and civil society in the fight against the scourge of the corona virus. Since the nationwide lockdown started on the 26th March 2020, the leadership of the Municipality has been hard at work in raising awareness and conducting compliance visits to various outlets including business, schools, churches and funerals. The aim of the visit is to monitor compliance on Covid 19 regulations.

The Lockdown regulations have affected the Municipality in many ways as we had to operate on skeletal staff and close other revenue generating activities that resulted in low rate of collections. Due to the regulations on gatherings, our contact with the communities is greatly reduced and is done in an effort to avoid cluster outbreaks. In the midst of the lockdown, the business of the Municipality had to continue to provide much needed services to the communities. As part of compliance to the Municipal System Act 32 of 2000, we had to conduct public participation on the 2020/21 IDP and Budget by digital platforms and social media. We would like to thank all those who took part in the Radio phone-in programme across 3 Radio stations and submitted inputs and comments into the 2020/21 IDP and Budget. Others used whatsapp, emails and suggestion boxes to make their voices heard. It was a new experience and we are grateful that our people are aligning themselves with the 4th Industrial revolution.

On the 29th May 2020, the Council conducted the special sitting to adopt the 2020/21 IDP and Budget through Virtual means. It was for the first time that the platform was used and was a huge success. We shall continue to use the virtual platform during the lockdown and beyond as it is cost effective and efficient despite network challenges in other areas.

Our Municipality is the epicenter of the disease in Sekhukhune District due to lot of economic activities happening and the number of people from other Provinces who are engaged in various activities. Since the reopening of the Mines, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of infected people and thus far we are happy with the number of recoveries as compared to active cases. It is our responsibility to flatten the curve of the virus by obeying regulations, changing our behavior and observing all health protocols. At all times we must wash our hands with soap for twenty seconds, sanitize our hands, maintain social distancing and wear face mask in public. The virus does not move but it is moved by people.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all health workers, law enforcement agencies, Municipal employees and Councillors doing compliance and monitoring, private sectors, sector departments and donors who have dedicated their lives to make difference during this trying times and working tirelessly to put the message across. This is a huge sacrifice and must be applauded.

We take this moment to welcome Mr Mogaramedi Makgata who was appointed as the CFO of the Municipality on the 01st April 2020 and we hope that his presence will assist the institution to move towards financial recovery and stability. We wish him well in his new responsibility.

Covid 19 is real and let us all play our part to flatten its spread.

THABISO MOKWENA

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Mayor mourn the death of Kgoshigadi Maphopha



Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality would like to pass its sincere condolences to Bahlakoana ba Maphopha after the passing on of **Kgoshigadi Maphopha**. A delegation led by **Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa** visited Bahlakoana ba Maphopha royal family to pay the last respect on behalf of the Municipality. Kgoshigadi passed on during the difficult period of Covid 19 where government has put strict measures in place to flatten the curve of the disease.



FTLM Mourners gathered at Ga Maphopha Tribal Council led by the Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa and his Executive Committee Members

In his message to the family and the Royal Council, Cllr Mamekoa expressed shock at the passing of Mma Kgoshi and heaped praises on her for leading the community and giving guidance on social issues. Her death has robbed the community the wisdom and unity that was displayed during her reign. As her passing on took place during the lockdown period, the Mayor appealed to the Royal Council and family to comply with all regulations of Covid 19 and to cooperate with law enforcement agencies to avoid penalties if measures are not put in place.

**A Moya wa
Nareadi o robale
ka khutso**

Mayor monitoring the first COVID-19 casualty at Motlolo village



From Right: FTLM Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa, FTLM OHS Official Desmond Makwana, Dilokong Hospital CEO Mrs Mashishi monitoring the first COVID-19 case funeral.

The Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality has expressed his deepest condolences to the family of a man who became the first victim of COVID-19 pandemic in the Municipality. The Provincial health department in Limpopo has confirmed that a 55-year-old male who died on 20 April had contracted corona virus and was the first casualty recorded in Sekhukhune district at Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality.

Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa said " our hearts are broken over the loss of a 55 years old man and we send our deepest condolences to his wife, children and the entire family during this difficult times. We humbly advice the people who

made contacts with him to cooperate with Health Department and visit their local health facilities for testing.

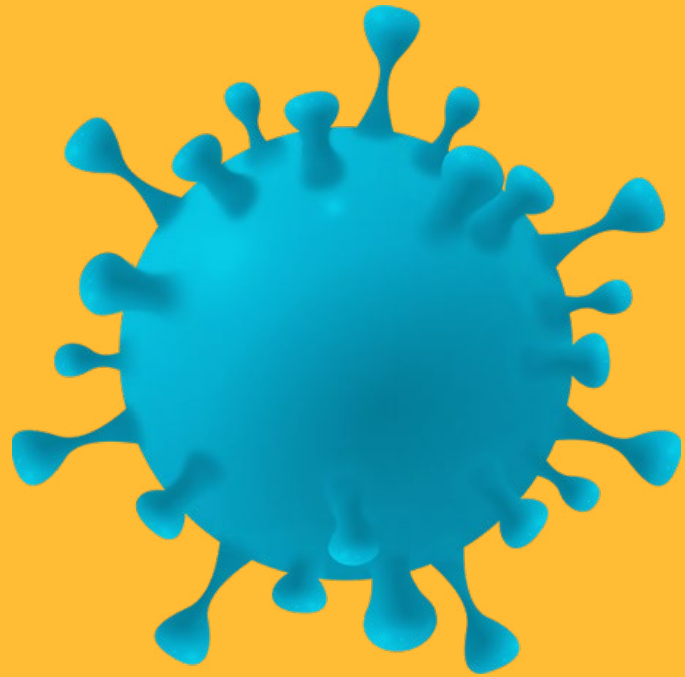
We all have a role to play in stopping the spread of the virus. The most important thing is to be health conscious and abide to all regulations of the nationwide lockdown. Let us stay at home to save lives and not to burden our health system by being reckless in our behaviour, Cllr Mamekoa said.

"As the Municipality we humbly request the fellow citizens to work together with the Department of Health as they continued with the massive community screening process across the Municipality." Screening and testing, combined with the lockdown regulations, hygiene measures and social distancing are the best tools we have in the fight against the coronavirus" concluded the Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa.

COVID 19 COMPLIANCE WITH BUSINESS

Since the lockdown started on the 26 March 2020 the leadership of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality led by the Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa joined hands with other state institutions, private sectors and civil society in the fight against the menace of the corona virus pandemic.

The Mayor and His Executive Committee members have been hard at work in raising awareness and conducting compliance visits in teams to various outlets including businesses, churches and funerals. The aim of the visit was to monitor compliance on Covid-19 regulations.



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Government for the people delivering basic services



From Left: Head of Technical Services Cllr Eddie Maila, COGHSTA MEC Basikopo Makamu, Social Development MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and FTLM Acting Mayor Isaac Mamogale

MEC of Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Basikopo Makamu accompanied by Ba- Moshate, Acting Mayor Cllr. Isaac Mamogale and Head of Technical Services Cllr Eddie Maila visited the family of an elderly woman who is staying in a three bedroom shack with her 13 grandchildren.

The elderly woman is one of the 52 residents whose SASSA cards are being held by a spaza shop owner after they took groceries on credit. The elderly woman has not been withdrawing her SASSA grant for four years as the card was held by the local businessman at Mahlakwena village outside Steelpoort town.



Lusi Sebulelo and her family receiving food parcels from the Mayor

The elderly woman has not been withdrawing her SASSA grant for four years as the card was held by the local businessman

The family was provided with a temporary shelter and food parcels by the MEC of Social Development and Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, while contractors are busy contracting a permanent structure.

Days before the visits by the MEC's, the Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa donated food parcels to the Lubisi family and others at Tukagomo village. The Municipality would like to thank Anglo American Platinum for donating food parcels to the vulnerable families during the lockdown period.

Schools re-opening

Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality has embarked on a programme to visit schools since its reopening on the 08th June 2020 for the return of Grade 7 and 12 learners. The objective of the programme was to check the readiness of the schools and to monitor compliance on Covid 19 regulations. The programme has seen the leadership of the Municipality together with officials from Sekhukhune East District of Education visiting all circuits to interact with school management teams and learners on the readiness to continue with the 2020 academic year.

Over 200 schools were visited and found to be ready to accommodate learners and continue with the academic year. Personal protective equipments were delivered and distributed amongst educators and learners to keep them safe from infections. We would like to thank the Department of Basic Education and the private sector for providing the essentials and also ablution facilities at schools with dire need. Some schools are still experiencing challenges of constant water supply and the ablution facilities and the matter is receiving attention from the relevant authorities. We thank Sekhukhune District Municipality by ensuring that there is continuous supply of water to affected schools.

The programme will continue when other grades are phased in to make sure that schools adhere to Covid 19 regulations and not put the lives of educators and learners at risk. It is our collective responsibility to flatten the curve of the spread and always stress the golden rule: wash hands for twenty seconds with soap, sanitize our hands, keep social distancing and wearing of mask at all times in public.



COMPLIANCE VISIT TO LEOLO HIGH AND BOGWASHA PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN PRAKTISEER TOWNSHIPS



From left: Leolo Principal Madala Mathebula, FTLM Mayor Cllr RS Mamekoa, Circuit Manager S Lingwati and Mantaga Selebalo.

Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality Mayor Cllr RS Mamekoa together with the Circuit Manager Mr S Lingwati and Officials from the Department of Public Works led by Mantaga Selebalo, visited Leolo High and Bogwasha Primary Schools in the Praktiseer area on behalf of the MEC of Public Works Namane Masemola.



Bogwasha Primary School

On behalf of the MEC of Public Works, the Mayor of Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa "indicated that they are here to offer support and monitor compliance as per covid 19 regulations. We are encouraging learners, teachers and support staff to apply social distancing in the school.

The Mayor also advised that the school should put an isolation room in place for emergencies. Toilets facilities should be kept clean at all times and learners should sanitize regularly for safety purposes. Time have changed and therefore South Africans should keep healthy at all times than before the emergence of COVID 19 pandemic. The School Governing body and Teachers should make sure that learners are in a good hands because they are the future of our country. This country depends on the future of this learners concluded Mayor Mamekoa".

The School Principal Mr Mathebula indicated that Leolo High School have 148 Grade 12 leaners and they are divided into 3 classes, where social distancing is applied.

The entourage proceeded to Bogwasha Primary school where learners are encouraged to wear masks at all times, wash hands with soap, sanitize their hands regularly and keep social distancing. The schools have complied in terms of the regulations and a follow up visits will be conducted when other grades are phased in.


Toilets facilities should be kept clean at all times and learners should sanitize regularly for safety purposes

MEC monitors school readiness



Tshabelang dinoko Secondary and Leboeng Primary Schools in the Leboeng area have been visited by the MEC of Provincial Treasury Mr Seaparo Sekwati together with the Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality Cllr RS Mamekoa, Technical Services Head Cllr E Maila, Community Services Head Cllr M Mashego, Drakensburg Circuit Manager Mr Mathebula and the District Director of Education of Sekhukhune East Mr Makola as part of the monitoring of COVID 19 regulations compliance for school re-opening for Grade 7 and 12 learners after the long closure of schools since March due to the announcement of Nation Lockdown made by the President.





When addressing the SGB and teachers the Mayor Cllr Mamekoa said “We also want to express our sincere gratitude to parents, teachers and learners, who had to endure the effects of the abnormal 2020 school calendar year as a result of the implementation of the Disaster Management Act to flatten the spread of the Corona virus. We can assure you that your anxieties are ours too and had to spend sleepless nights pondering on the future of the learners. We have done and will continue to do our level best to ensure that our schools are safe in Fetakgomo Tubatse. All of us are therefore, called to do whatever we are expected to do, to ensure that our school communities and spaces do not become the new hotspots for the COVID-19 pandemic”.

When addressing SGB, teacher and learners of Tshabelang dinoko and Leboeng schools respectively MEC Seaparo Sekwati said “We would like to thank in particular our Teacher and Worker Unions as well as the SGB Associations for their unwavering commitment and oversight for the re-opening of schools. The relentless efforts of School Principals, School Management Team and Educators to ensure that schools are ready to receive learners are evident of their commitment towards the future of our children. We salute you and wish you all of the best for the rest of the 2020 school academic year”.



From Left: Drakensburg Circuit Manager Mr Mathebula, FTLM Mayor Cllr RS Mamekoa, MEC Seaparo Sekwati, Sekhukhune East Director of Education Mr Makola and FTLM Head of Community Services Cllr M Mashego



“We would like to thank in particular our Teacher and Worker Unions as well as the SGB Associations for their unwavering commitment and oversight for the re-opening of schools.

MONITORING RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS



Nakgwadi Secondary School, at Ga-Maroga village became the first school to be visited after the reopening of schools for Grade 7 and 12 learners. The school was blessed by the presence of Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila, Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa, District Director of Education Mr Makola and Pulana Maroga Tribal Authority led by Moragedi Maroga. The purpose of the visit was to check the readiness of the school in terms of infrastructure, Personal protective equipments and the general Covid 19 regulations on the reopening of schools.

In his remarks, Mayor Cllr Mamekoa indicated that the visit to the school was prompted by the call made by President Ramaphosa to fight against the

spread of corona virus in all walks of life. Government has visited the school to check if they comply with regulations and ready to welcome back educators and Grade 12 learners.

The Executive Mayor stated that the school was chosen because it is situated in a Mining area where many cases were reported and also in a proximity where a first casualty was recorded in Sekhukhune District. The objective of government is to fight against the spread of the virus and to ensure that all institutions adhere to Covid 19 regulations especially in schools where there are vulnerable people.

The school was found to be compliant in all aspects as all measures were put in place to ensure the safety of learners, educators and visitors. The School Principal attributed the success of the school to the Department of Education and Modikwa Mine for supplying PPE, sanitizers, other essentials and fumigating the whole school.

OPERATION SANITIZER

Acting Mayor Cllr Eddie Maila accompanied by members of the Executive committee Cllr Reneilwe Pholwane, Cllr Maria Mashego and Municipal officials visited Ohrigstad cluster as part of monitoring compliance at businesses.

During the visit several businesses were found to be operating without valid permits, overpricing on food items, not complying with health and safety laws and contravening laws

“During the visit we discovered that there are lot of foreign nationals who are not properly documented and running spaza shops in many towns and townships. Most businesses are not registered in terms of the law, they must get a permit from their Councillors or Municipality and they are free to trade.” Said Acting Mayor Maila.



governing asylum seekers. The operation resulted in a Chinese shop being shut down after not complying with COVID-19 regulations. They failed to produce business permit, sanitizing customers and also selling non-essential items. The shop owners were ordered to get necessary permit and to put compliance measures in place before reopening the shop.

Two spaza shops at Lepelle and Tswenyane Village were ordered to remove the expired stock and use correct sanitizers.



Premier Mathabatha monitoring mines



Limpopo Premier Chupu Mathabatha visited Marula Platinum mine in Diphale area for COVID-19 adherence and monitoring for the reopening of the Mines as part of Alert level 4. The Premier was accompanied by MEC Thabo Mokone responsible for LEDET, MEC Phophi Ramathuba responsible for Health and Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality Ralepane Mamekoa. Marula mine is currently operating with 50% of employees and complying with measures announced by the department of Employment and Labour.

The objective of the visit was to check facilities around the mine in preparation for the return of employees. The entourage was given a presentation on safety measures to mitigate the spread of the virus and also

took a tour to the Mine clinic and isolation sites to see if they meet the criteria. MEC Ramathuba thanked the management of the mine on how they tried to comply with the measures. The strategy used by the mine is totally encouraging and we wish the mine would continue to keep on complying to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

In his key address the Premier of Limpopo Mathabatha applauded the mine for providing social responsibility to their employees at large. It was for the first time the Premier visited the mines to inspect compliance measures at their operations. Mathabatha said all the mines will be visited to avoid disappointments at a later stage. Marula mine has set high standard on social responsibility to prevent COVID-19 pandemic on their 50% operations and we will use this measures of Marula Mine to compare with other mines concluded Premier Mathabatha.

Provincial Command Council visits Fetakgomo Tubatse to monitor compliance



Premier of Limpopo Chupu Mathabatha and FTLM Mayor Ralepane Samuel Mamekoa verifying hawker`s permit.



About
30 people
were arrested
Fetakgomo Tubatse for
breaking the Lockdown
regulations.

Special operation to monitor compliance of COVID 19 regulations at Burgersfort Cluster and its surrounding villages was conducted by the Premier of Limpopo Province, Chupu Mathabatha accompanied by MEC of Transport & Community Safety, Mrs Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya as well as other members of the Provincial COVID 19 Command Council, the Provincial Commissioner of the South African Police Service in Limpopo Lieutenant General Nneke Ledwaba, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Stanley Ramaila and Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipal Mayor Cllr Ralepane Mamekoa.

The purpose of the operation was to raise awareness around Covid 19 and to assess whether people and businesses comply and obey the regulations.

Several Supermarkets in Burgersfort town, Mashamothane, Praktiseer Township, Steelpoort town and Ngwaabe area were visited and the non-complying shops were closed and owners arrested and charged for non-compliance in terms of Covid-19 regulations. The entourage of Law enforcement agencies from SAPS and Traffic police started at Burgersfort Extension 10 where several people were arrested for contravening the COVID-19 Regulations and also big retails shops were ordered to close by the Premier of Limpopo for using a fake sanitizer.

In his address Premier Mathabatha, raised a number of concerns about the non-compliance in Burgersfort and the surrounding villages around Fetakgomo Tubatse. He said "the area will be closely monitored by SAPS". About 30 people were arrested at Fetakgomo Tubatse for breaking the Lockdown regulations.

Better house to 109 years living legend



A 109 years' grandmother from Tjidintji section Mooihoek village in Driekop next to Modikwa mine was handed a magnificent Five roomed house with three bedroom and fully furnished by the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Keamotseng Ramaila. Koko Legadi Maroga received the gift of house after staying in an old house with poor living conditions for many years ago and sharing it with her four orphaned grandchildren after their parents passed on. This ever strong granny, depend solely on social grants to survive and feed her orphaned grandchildren.

The call to assist Granny Legadi was made by the ward Councillor Rebone Riba after identifying the family and realising that the house was in a dilapidating stage and not conducive for people to live in. Cllr Riba said to the family and friends who gathered to witness the handing over of the house "We would like to thank the Municipality and the contractor for building the house to the family and handing it over during the period of Covid 19. The family will be able to sleep comfortably and avoid the cold season of winter.

"We wish to thank the contractor who has spent enormous time building this beautiful house on my behalf. I am very grateful that I can restore the dignity of Mme Maria Maroga, after long toiling years without shelter and we will continue supporting the family, God bless Koko Maria Legadi Maroga with many years to come." Said Executive Mayor Ramaila.



Help stop the spread of **COVID-19.**

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least **20 seconds.**



STAY
SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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