



agriculture & rural development

Department:
agriculture & rural development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

To all media houses

20 March 2020

CORONA VIRUS THREAT CALLS FOR DRASTIC OVERHAUL ON SOCIAL REGIME

It has been agreed – government is operating under extra-ordinary conditions and therefore every single citizen must be made psychologically ready for the implications of the spread as well as a range of interventions to curb the spread of the coronavirus outbreak.

This is a clear and resolute message that the King Cetshwayo district executive council and its OSS structures emerged with from briefings held by Champion of district and KZN MEC for DARD, Mrs. Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi, following the President, Cyril Ramaphosa's declaration that the outbreak of Covid-19 is a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act.

The purpose of the meetings was to brief and discuss the practical implications of the President's announcement, limitation to less than a 100 the number of people gathered in all mass events, the current state of affairs regarding COVID-19 in the district and urgent steps needed to contain the spread.

These briefing meetings are part of the provincial government's decision to involve all sectors in cascading the presidential pronouncements on corona virus down to the lowest levels of society using OSS structures.

Inkosi Albert Luthuli Hospital's HOD, Dr. Thandeka Khanyile-Mbokazi said it was of critical importance that every citizen of the province is made psychologically ready in order to stop the spread.

"We are in the season that has common colds and flus but these must not be taken for granted. Avoid social gatherings at all cost at this time. We need to be aggressive in stopping the spread. This is important because the scientists have not found the cure yet. This includes resting your gardening and domestic help," she said.

She added that Ngwelezane, Manguzi, Addington and Greys Hospitals have been allocated as a Corona treatment-ready centres and said that the province is currently identifying other facilities as part of increasing the number of hospitals that are going to serve as quarantine areas.

King Cetshwayo district will continue with engagements with local amakhosi to explain the council's decision to shut down public facilities such as stadiums, beach access, public participation in the budget vote among others as a measure to limit the spread of Corona.

The executive committee, portfolio committee and council meetings will go ahead as their numbers are less than 100.

Corona virus contact toll-free number is 0800 029 999 toll-free - 0600 123456 WhatsApp

For more information, contact Mack Makhathini on 071 360 9017 or Vusi Zuma on 082 419 2887 or Buyani Mkhulise on 082 782 8847.