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Page 11





COVID-19 vaccines arrive in SA

Page 6

COVID-19 restrictions eased

Allison Cooper

he steady decline of new Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) infections over the past few weeks has resulted in the easing of some of the adjusted level 3 lockdown regulations.

Addressing the nation recently, President Cyril Ramaphosa said South Africa has recorded its lowest daily increase in infections since the beginning of December and the number of hospital admissions has decreased. "This indicates that the country has passed the peak of the second wave," he confirmed.

The President thanked citizens for adhering to the adjusted level 3 lockdown regulations, stating that the measures necessary to contain the spread of the virus have caused great hardship and difficulty for some people.

"We are acutely aware that these restrictions have negatively affected businesses and threatened jobs in the hospitality, tourism and related industries. That is why we are determined that such restrictions should not continue any longer than is absolutely necessary to contain the pandemic and minimise the loss of life.

"We will continue to work with business and labour in these sectors to revive businesses and restore jobs, both in the immediate and longer term," the President confirmed.

Adjusted level 3 regulations

Cabinet has eased the following adjusted level 3 regula-

- Curfew is from 11pm to
- Establishments must close

by 10pm.

- Faith-based gatherings are permitted, subject to health protocols. They may not exceed 50 people (indoor venues) or 100 people (outdoor venues). Where the venue is too small to accommodate these numbers with appropriate social distancing, no more than 50% of the capacity of the venue may be used.
- Public places such as beaches, dams, rivers, parks and public swimming pools are open, subject to health protocols.
- The sale of alcohol by licensed premises for off-site consumption is allowed from Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 6pm.

Cont. page 2



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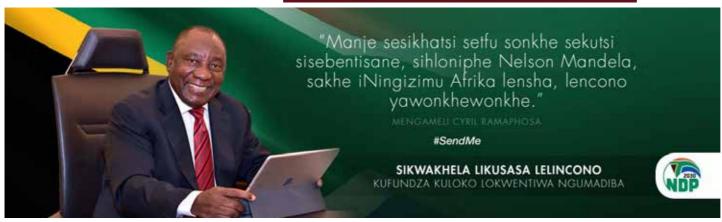
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Kuligugu Lelikhulu Kuhola Inhlangano Yebunye Bemave Ase-Afrika

ikhatsi seNingizimu Afrika sekuba nguSihlalo weNhlangano Yebunye Bemave ase-Afrika (i-AU) sesifike ekugcineni. Lapho sibuyeketa sikhatsi setfu sekuba kulesikhundla, ngikhumbula sisho lesidzala lesitsi 'ematfuba lamahle avuka etimeni letimatima'

Kwetfu kube ngumbhabhatiso wemlilo, ngemuvanje wekungena esikhundleni sekuba nguSihlalo ngayo yona leyo nyanga kwabikwa sehlakalo sekucala seligciwane lekhorona kuleliyekati.

Kwendlalwa tintfo letibekwa embili tesikhatsi setfu, emkhatsini wato kuchubekisela embili kuthula nekuphepha, kuhlonyiswa kwabomake ngetemnotfo kanye nekujulisa temnotfo letihlanganisiwe, kwadzinga kutsi kuguculwe ngalokubonakalako kute kutsi kubukwane nalolubhubhane.

lukati kwaba kwenta kutsi i-AU igcile ekubukaneni nesimo semhlaba lesiphutfumako lesingakate sesibe khona ekhulwini leminyaka. I-COVID-19 itsintse onkhe emave kulelivekati. Kute kube ngulamuhla kucinisekiswe tehlakalo letitigidzi

leti-3.5 e-Afrika, futsi seba-

ngetulu kwe-88 000 bantfu

Umsebenti wetfu lomkhu-

labashonile.

Kube simo lesimatima setemphilo, senhlalakahle yebantfu, setenhlalo netemnotfo emaveni ase-Afrika, linyenti lawo lite imitfombolusito leyenele yekubukana nesimo setemphilo lesibucayi



salobukhulu lobungaka.

Kantsi-ke futsi, njengobe lesimo salolubhubhane singakate sesibe khona, kube njalo-ke nasendleleni emave ase-Afrika lahlangane ngayo kute alwe nalo.

Ekwenteni njalo sisebente kakhulu tingcweti, emakhono kanye netikhungo talelivekati njengeTikhungo tase-Afrika Tekulawula Nekuvikela Tifo (i-Afrika CDC).

I-Afrika ayikahlali-nje yagoca tandla ngesikhatsi lolubhubhane nebungoti balo bubhebhetseka. Kusukela ngemalanga ekucala alolubhubhane futsi siholwa yi-AU, masinyane-nje senta lisubuciko lelivekati lekubukana nalesimo, siholwa yi-Afrika CDC kanye nemibutfo lesebentako yesigodzi.

Sicaphele kutsi onkhe emave kulelivekati atawutsintfwa kakhulu ngulolubhubhane. Linyenti angeke libe nalemitfombolusito ledzingekako yekuhlangabetana netinsayeya tetemphilo yesive noma yekuvikela iminotfo yayo. Sabese siyavumelana singemave ase-Afrika kutsi sikhetse bantfu base-Afrika labanyenti labavelele kutsi babe titfunywa letikhetsekile, letitawukhulumisana nalabasita ngetimali bemave angaphandle kanye netikhungo letimikhakhaminyenti kukhuluma egameni le-Afrika mayelana netekusitwa ngetimali nekuhhamuleka etikweletini.

Ngalendlela lena, kusebenta njengelivekati linye, sakhona kutfola kuhhamuleka etikweletini kwemave lamanyenti nekutfola lusito lwetetimali tekubukana ne-*COVID-19* nekuvusetelwa kwemnotfo.

Kepha nanoma-nje emave ase-Afrika acela lusito emmangweni wemave emhlaba, sacala ngekutisita tsine ngekwetfu – kusungula nekugcila kuSikhwama Sekubukana ne-COVID-19 salelivekati.

Lonkhe lubanjiswano lolwentiwe netive letinemitfombo lencono nemmango wemave emhlaba lonikela ngetimali, sisungula yetfu Inkhundla Yase-Afrika Yekuniketa Tintfo Tetekwelashwa lensha naleyincalisakuvela letawenta kutsi onkhe emave ase-Afrika kutsi atfole masinyane tisetjentiswa tekutivikela kanye naletinye tintfo tetekwelashwa ngendlela lelinganako, nalengabiti kakhulu.

Futsi manje-ke njengoba umutsi wemjovo wekugoma i-COVID-19 sewukhona, sisebente simunye kute sicinisekise kutsi lelivekati litfola sabelo lesifanele, sisebentisana neSisetjentiswa se-COVAX futsi siholwa ngeletfu Licembu Lase-Afrika Lelisebentako Lekutfola Umutsi Wemjovo Wekugoma. Kusetjentiswa kwemutsi wemjovo wekugoma sekuvele kucalile kulelivekati futsi sifisa kutsi linyenti lebantfu balelivekati babe sebagonyiwe ekupheleni kwa-2021 kuzuza kugoma linani lelikhulu lelilindzelwe.

Sisebente simunye kuvikela temphilo, bantfu kanye netindlela tekutiphilisa kulelivekati. Ekwenteni njalo, sikhombise emandla etfu ekumelana netimo letimatima kanye nekuba bachubi bentfutfuko yetfu.

Nanoma-nje senganywe yi-COVID-19, sikhonile kwenta tinchubekelembili letinyenti etintfweni tetfu letinyenti letibekwa embili.

Ngesikhatsi setfu, Indzawo Yelivekati Lase-Afrika Yekuhwebelana Mahhala (i-AfCFTA) yagcina yetfuliwe, yahambela embili sikhatsi lesisha setekuhwebelana kwemave ase-Afrika nekuhlanganiswa kwemnotfo.

Ngisho nangaphasi kwetimo letimatima letivetwe ngulolubhubhane, lelivekati lichubekele embili emgomeni 'wekuthulisa tibhamu' kulelivekati. I-AU beyiloku ihlanganyela ngemandla kutikhuluniswano tekucela nekubonisana mayelana ne-Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, macondzana nekucedvwa kwekudubulana eLibya nekukhutsata kuthula eSouth Sudan.

Lokukugcile kwelicembu letfu kube sekuhlomiseni bomake ngetemnotfo, lesitawuchubeka nekuhola ngisho nangemuva kwekuphela kwesikhatsi setfu kute futsi kube sekupheleni kweMinyakalishumi Wekufakwa Kwetetimali Netemnotfo Tabomake ku-2030.

Lapho sinika iDemocratic Republic of Congo (i-DRC) tintsambo sishiya lomtimba welivekati lovelele esimeni lesinemandla kakhulu.

INingizimu Afrika itawuchubeka idlale indzima yayo kwenta kuhlangana kulelivekati, kanye nekwesekela Sihlalo longenako kanye nalenhlangano emitameni yayo yekuhlangabetana netimfuno te-Ajenda ye-AU yanga-2063.

Ngesikhatsi kusungulwa Inhlangano Yebunye Be-Afrika nga-1963, Emave langeMalunga ahlanyela inhlanyelo yelubanjiswano nebunye ngenhloso yemphilo lencono yabo bonkhe bantfu base-Afrika.

Bacinisekisa kutsi bunye be-Afrika bebubaluleke kakhulu uma ngabe inhlalakahle nekuphila kahle kwebantfu be-Afrika bekufanele kutsi kucinisekiswe.

Umlandvo ungufakazi wekutsi lenhlanyelo beyinga-weli emhlabatsini lovundzile ngaso sonkhe sikhatsi, futsi ekuhambeni kweminyaka umklamo webunye be-Afrika uhlangabetene netinkinga letinyenti kanye nekucala lokungasilo liciniso.

Kepha kwesabisa ngekufa lokuvetwe ngulolubhubhane lwente emave ase-Afrika kutsi asebente ngekubambisana

Ngesikhatsi lesimatima kakhulu se-COVID-19, lenhlanyelo yebunye nelubanjiswano leyahlanyelwa ngemavulandlela etfu aphambilini seyimilile futsi iyandlondlobala.

Ngalesikhatsi lesi sekulingwa lokukhulu nebumatima sibe sikhatsi lesihle kakhulu se-AU.

Sihloniphekile ngekunikwa litfuba lekuhola lenhlangano ngalesikhatsi lesi, lesikhombise mbamba kutsi asho kutsini lamagama latsi Bunye be-Afrika.

Loku kuyintfo lezuziwe lefanele kutsi tonkhe takhamuti telivekati lase-Afrika titigcabhe ngako tiphindze futsi titfole kukhutsateka kuko. •

COVID-19 vaccines arrive in SA

Allison Cooper

outh Africa's fight against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) took a big step forward with the arrival of one million AstraZeneca vaccines (Covishield), manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) recently.

South Africa's fight against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) took a big step forward with the arrival of one million AstraZeneca vaccines (Covishield), manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII) recently.

President Cyril Ramaphosa that received the vaccines at



the OR Tambo International Airport.

"Now that the vaccines have arrived, they will be tested at the National Control Laboratory to confirm that their integrity has been maintained during transportation. After testing, they will be distributed across the country to thousands of our healthcare workers who every day put their own lives

at risk to save others," says President Ramaphosa.

The distribution of vaccines to healthcare workers is phase one of South Africa's mass COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The National Department of Health will coordinate the vaccine rollout with provincial health departments and the private healthcare sector.

"Provincial health depart-

ments have submitted their distribution plans and we have identified about 200 facilities to which the vaccines can be distributed," the President says.

No-one will pay for their vaccination. The cost will either be covered by a person's medical aid or by the State.

President Ramaphosa says the vaccine will be available to all adults living in South Africa, regardless of their citizenship or residence status.

While encouraging citizens to get vaccinated, he also stressed that no one will be forced to take the vaccine. "Nobody will be forbidden from travelling, from enrolling at school, or from taking part in any public activity if they have not been vaccinated. Nobody will be given this vaccine against their will, nor will the vaccine be administered in secret. Any

rumours to this effect are both false and dangerous."

How to access the vaccine?

The Department of Health has developed the Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS) to streamline the vaccine registration and rollout process.

"This will allow us to capture all relevant data associated with the administration of the vaccine. The system allows a person to make an appointment as soon as they qualify for a vaccination, at the vaccine centre closest to them. The system will record vaccinations as they are administered," President Ramaphosa explains.

Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize launched the EVDS recently and urged all active healthcare workers to register on the portal (https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za). •

Umutsi wekugoma we-COVID-19: Lodzinga kukwati

Allison Cooper

jengoba sekutawu-calwa luhlelo lolukhulu lwa-seNingizimu Afrika lweku-goma Sifo seLigciwane leKhorona (i-COVID-19) kutisebenti tetemphilo ngeNdlovana,

i-Vuk'uzenzele iyasicacisela kutsi uyini umutsi wekugoma we-COVID-19, kutsi usebenta kanjani nekutsi kubaluleke kangakanani kuvimba kubhebhetseka kwaleligciwane.

Umutsi wekugoma wentani?

Umutsi wekugoma ucecesha sincandzatifo sakho (lesilwa nekugula lokukungenile), kutsi ukhicite emasotja emtimba (emaphrotheni lalwa netifo) – njengobe bekatowenta njalo uma ngabe bewuvuleleke egciwaneni.

Kungani lomutsi wekugoma ubaluleke kangaka?

Kugonyelwa i-COVID-19 kuyindlela lesebenta kahle kakhulu ekutsini nitivikele kuleligciwane ngobe ematfuba engoti yekutsi linganingena anciphile. Ubese uba nematfuba lamancane kabi ekutsi ungendlulisela leligciwane kulomunye umuntfu.

Inhloso yalokugonywa kutsi kufinyelelwe linani lebantfu lelenele – lapho khona uma linani lebantfu lelenele seligonyele leligciwane kuniketa kuvikeleka ngalokungacondzi-ngco labo labangakagonywa, lokwenta kutsi kubhebhetseka kwaleligciwane kulawuleke.

Imitsi yekugoma iyadzingeka yini kuvikela kubhebhetseka kwe-COVID-19?

Kunebufakazi lobukhulu kakhulu betesayensi lobukhombisa kutsi kugoma kukutivikela lokukahle kakhulu kwekutsi ungangenwa tifo letimatima.

Lomutsi wekugoma utangivimba yini kutsi ngingangenwa yi-COVID-19?

Kute umutsi wekugoma

lovikelana ngalokuphelele loku-100%.

Kuba nelinani lebantfu lelenele leligonyiwe akuniketi kuvikeleka ngalokuphelele kulabo labangakagonywa. Nanoma kunjalo, ngalelinani lelenele leligonyiwe, labantfu laba batawuba nekuvikeleka lokukhulu.

Lomutsi wekugoma uphephile yini?

Imitsi yekugoma ye-CO-VID-19 yendlula kunchubo lebitako, lenetigaba letinyenti tekuhlolwa, kufaka ekhatsi kulinga kwekusebenta kwayo lokutsatsa sikhatsi lesidze lokufaka ekhatsi tinkhulungwane letingemashumishumi tebantfu.

Yonkhe imitsi yekugoma lesetjentiswa eNingizimu Afrika kuluhlelo lwekugoma lwawonkhe wonkhe ifanele kutsi ivunywe Siphatsimandla SaseNingizimu Afrika Lesilawula Imikhicito Yetemphilo.

Umutsi wekugoma we-*University of Oxford-AstraZeneca* sewuvele uvunyiwe balawuli labanyenti labehlukene be-

mhlaba wonkhe futsi sewucalile kusetjentiswa kulamanye emave.

INingizimu Afrika itawutfola kuphi umutsi wayo wekugoma wekucala?

Emabheshi ekucala emitsi yekugoma latawufika lapha eNingizimu Afrika (sigidzi sinye ngaBhimbidvwane bese kutsi ngeNdlovana sekufika-500 000) ngabe imitsi yekugoma

ye-Oxford University-AstraZeneca ibuya kuSikhungo i-Serum Institute of India.

Bobani labatawutfola lomutsi wekugoma?

Tisebenti tetemphilo letilinganiselwa kutigidzi leti-1.25 ngito letitawutfola kucala lomutsi wekugoma.

Sigaba Sesibili, tisebenti temisebenti lehamba embili njengabothishela, emaphoyisa, tisebenti tamasipala, bashayeli bematekisi kanye naletinye tisebenti letisebenta esigabeni lesingembili; bantfu labasetikhungweni letifanana nemakhaya ebantfu labadzala, tindzawo teku-khosela kanye nemajele; kanye nebantfu labangetulu kweminyaka lenge-60 budzala kanye nebantfu labadzala labanaletinye titfo batawubekwa embili.

Sigaba Sesitsatfu, bantfu labalinganiselwa kutigidzi letinge-22.5 belinani lebantfu labadzala labasele batawugonywa.

Umgomo lapha kutsi kugonywe-67% welinani lebantfu ekupheleni kwa-2021. Ngaleso sikhatsi sifanele kutsi sitawube sesifikile kulinani lelincunyiwe lebantfu labagonyiwe.

Ngubani lotsenga lomutsi wekugoma?

Hulumende nguye kuphela umtsengi walemitsi yekugoma futsi utawuyisabalalisa kubohulumende netifundza kanye nakumkhakha lotimele

Bonkhe labo labatawugonywa batawubhaliswa kurejista yavelonkhe bese banikwa

> Lolwatiso luniketwe Litiko Letemphilo