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**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES MINISTERIAL BRIEFING  
SESSION ON THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME:**

*“Progress On the Expansion and Acceleration of the Vaccination  
Programme”*

31 AUGUST 2021

- **Chairperson of the NCOP Hon. Amos Masondo**
- **Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Phaahla**
- **Deputy Minister of Health Hon Dr. Dhlomo**
- **MECs for Health**
- **Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP Hon. Sylvia Lucas**
- **Chief Whip of the NCOP Hon. Mohai**
- **House Chairpersons**
- **Honourable Permanent and Special Delegates**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

Kindly receive greetings from the SALGA National Executive Committee and the Local Government Sector.

Chairperson, since the declaration of the state of disaster for COVID-19, all Premiers, Members of Executive Councils responsible for local government and Health in the provinces, the President of the South African Local Government Association, all Executive Mayors / Mayors

and institutions of Traditional Leadership worked together to take all reasonable measures to facilitate and implement measures to prevent and contain the spread of the virus in communities. The command councils at all levels have seen collaboration by all state organs and spheres of governments, this has brought immediate interventions and actions at the exact moment of need.

SALGA participates in the National command councils and the reports on vaccination incorporate reports coordinated from Joint Operation centres in districts and Metros and consolidated into the provincial reports presented by the Hon MECs for Health in the National Health Council.

Municipalities at the centre of coordination continue in their command councils to ensure that in various communities, the vaccination program reaches out to all. Programs to this effect include:

### **Community Awareness and Education**

Executive Mayors, Mayors and Speakers are embarking on community outreach programmes in partnership with Department of Health, to create awareness on key messaging to dispel myths around the vaccine, encourage people of all cohort ages to register for vaccinations and further observation of Covid-19 Protocols on non -biomedical protection. i.e. wearing of mask, washing of hands and or hand sanitization.

Radio interviews, social media, and various platforms are utilised to send a clear message. To spread the message, further work is extended to encourage communities by:

- The utilisation of municipal facilities as vaccine sites and centers of information
- Dispatch of municipal law enforcement to sites for crowd management, compliance enforcement and loud hailing support
- Mobilization of communities, communication on the rollout and community mobilization led by Ward Councilors in their war rooms
- Traditional, religious leaders, civil society are roped in and leading by example in taking the vaccine and leading the vaccination drive in their constituencies
- Provision of transport to vaccine sites for pensioners and those with disabilities
- Provision of municipal and government services in sites
- Compliance monitoring to health standards in the sites

- EHPs in municipalities conduct inspections, joint operations, and monitoring of funerals, disinfections and community awareness and education on Covid -19 safety protocols and encourage vaccination in communities they visit
- Partnering with influencers who have vaccinated and share on social platforms the safety of the vaccine to motivate uptake

### **NEED FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION TO NEGATIVE PUBLICITY**

- State communicators in all spheres should be provided with information by the health sector to clarify and explain distortions in social media platforms before they take root, and provide a platform for specialists to clarify pertinent issues in easy to understand methods in a way that encouraged inclusion and interactions.
- Concerns on the quality and lifespan of the virus efficacy be addressed and clarified.
- Deal with COVID- 19 compliance and intervention fatigue

### **CONCLUSION**

We commend the use of mobile vaccine sites, workplace sites and drive through sites as these take the vaccination to where people are and the more they spread out the better. These should be intensified, with more human resources, targeting crowded areas and reaching out to rural communities that are far flung.

We note and appreciate these efforts but continue to encourage the capacitation of the environmental health care sector in districts and Metros with additional human resources to sustain the work done in communities on prevention and interventions to curb the spread of the virus and management thereof.

SALGA remains committed to collaboration and cooperation with the National and Provincial Spheres to implement lasting solutions to the vaccination apathy, until herd immunity is achieved.

Thank you Honourable Chairperson.

**Cllr S. Ramaila**

**NEC Member and Chairperson of the National Working Group on Health**