

Vuk'uzenzele

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COVID-19 restrictions eased



Allison Cooper

The 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 busi-

nesses 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 regulations:




- Curfew is from 11pm to 4am.
- 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.

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Kusho Lukhulu Ukuhola uBumbano Lwamazwe ase-Afrika (i-AU)

Isikhathi seNingizimu Afrika njengoSihlalo woBumbano Lwamazwe ase-Afrika (i-AU) siphelile. Njengoba sibheka onyakeni wethu sise-sikhundleni, ngikhumbula isisho sakudala esithi 'kuba mnyama kakhulu uma sekuzosa'.

Kowethu unyaka besibhabhadiswa ngomlilo, ukungena esikhundleni sokuba uSihlalo ngenyanga eyodwa lapho kwabikwa khona isigameko sokuqala ngqa segciwane le-corona ezwenikazi.

Esasikubeke eqhulwini ngesikhathi sethu, phakathi kwakho ukuqhubekisela phambili ukuthula nokuvikeleka, ukuthuthukiswa kwabesifazane ngokomnotho kanye nokuqinisa ukuhlanganyela kwezomnotho, kwamele ukuthi kuguqule ngokuphazima kweso nangokubonakalayo ukuze kubhekanwe nobhubhane.

Umsebenzi wethu omkhulu kwakungukuthi i-AU igxile ekubhekaneni nesimo esibi esiphuthumayo somhlaba esesibe khona kwikhulumnyaka.

I-COVID-19 isikhahlameze wonke amazwe ezwenikazi. Kuze kube manje kunezigameko eziqinisekisiwe ezingaphezu kwezigidi ezi-3.5 e-Afrika, futhi bangaphezu kwezi- 88 000 abantu asebedlule emhlabeni.

Kube usizi lwezempilo, lokusiza, lwenhlalo kanye nomnotho emazweni ase-Afrika, amaningi awo angenazo izinsiza zokulawula izimo eziphuthumayo zempi- lo ezinkulu ngalolu hlobo.



Futhi nokho, njengento engakaze ibonwe njenge-mvelaphi yobhubhane, kanjalo nendlela amazwe ase-Afrika abumbane ngayo ukulwa nalo.

Ngokwenza njalo siveze ubukhulu bobuchwepheshe bezwekazi, amakhono kanye nezikhungo ezifana neZikhungo zase-Afrika Zokulawula Nokuvikelwa Kwezifo (i-Africa CDC).

I-Afrika ayigoqanga nje izandla uma ubunjalo nobungozi bobhubhane buvuleka. Kusukela ezinsukwini zokuqala zobhubhane futhi ngokuholwa i-AU, sasungula ngokushesha iqhingasas lezwekazi lokubhekana nobhubhane, elaliholwa i-Africa CDC kanye nama-thimba ezifunda.

Sabona ukuthi wonke amazwe ezwenikazi azokhahlamezeka kakhulu ngubhubhane. Amazwe amaningi angeke abe nazo izinsiza ezidingekayo ukumelana nenselele yezempilo yomphakathi noma ukuvikela iminotno yawo. Ngakho-ke sabe sesivumelana njengamazwe ase-Afrika ukuqoka abantu base-Afrika abaningana abaqavile njengezithunywa ezikhethekile, ezizoxoxisana nabaxhasi bamazwe nga-

mazwe kanye nezikhungo ezahlukehlekene ukuze bezoyokhulumela i-Afrika ukuze ithole ukwesekwa ngezimali nokusizwa ngezikeleto.

Ngale ndlela, ukusebenza njengezwekazi elilodwa, sikwazile ukutholela amazwe amaningi usizo ngezikeleto kanye nosizo lwezezimali zokubhekana ne-COVID-19 kanye nokuvuselelwa komnotho.

Kodwa yize amazwe ase-Afrika aya kumazwe aphenesha kwezilwandle ukuyofuna ukwesekwa, saqala sazisa thina – ngokusungula nokwenza imali yeSikhwama Sokubhekana ne-COVID-19 sezwekazi.

Kubo bonke ubudlelwano obenziwe kanzima namazwe anezinsiza ezingcono kakhulu kanye nomphakathi wabaxhasi bamazwe ngamazwe, sisungule Inkundla Yokusabalalisa Izinsiza Zokwelapha e-Afrika entsha sha nengakaze ibonwe ukuvumela ukuthi wonke amazwe ase-Afrika asheshe athole izinsizakusebenza zokuzivikela nezinye izinsiza zokwelapha ngendlela elinganayo, futhi engabizi.

Futhi manje umgomo we-COVID-19 usukhona,

sisebenze ngokubambisana ukuqinisekisa ukuthi izwekazi liyayithola imigomo yalo ngokufanele, sisebenza nesikhungo i-COVAX nokuholwa iThimba lase-Afrika Eliqinisekisa Ukutholwa Komgomo. Ukuqaliswa kokugonywa kwabantu sekuqalile ezwenikazi futhi sifisa ukuba nenanibantu elikhulu ezwenikazi eseligomile uma kuphela unyaka wezi-2021 ukuze sizogoma inani elanele labantu.

Sisebenze ngobunye ukuvikela impilo, abantu kanye nendlela yokuziphilisa ezwenikazi. Ngokwenzenjalo, sibonise ukwazi kwethu ukuthembela kithina kanye nekhono lethu lokuba abalawuli bentuthuko yethu. Ngaphandle kokubusa kwe-COVID-19, sikwazile futhi ukuphumelela kokuningana kwebesikubeke eqhulwini.

Ngesikhathi sethu, iNdawo Yokuhwebelana Mahhala Ezwenikazi lase-Afrika (i-AfCFTA) yethulwa ngokusemthethweni, okwakumemezela inkathi entsha yokuhwebelana ezwenikazi lase-Afrika kanye nokuhlanganyela kwezomnotho.

Ngisho nangaphansi kwemizimo ezinzima ezidalwe ubhubhane, izwekazi liphokophele phambili nephopho 'lokuthulisa izibhamu' ezwenikazi. I-AU ibilokhu izibandakanye ezingxoxweni ezithinta idamu i-Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, ukuqeda udlame e-Libya nokugqugquzela ukuthula e-South Sudan.

Okunye ebesigxile kukho ngesikhathi sethu kube uku-

thuthukiswa kwabesifazane kwezomnotho, esizoqhubeka nakho ngisho sekudlule isikhathi sethu kuze kwedlulele kwiShumi leminyaka Lokubandakanywa Kwabesifazane Kwezezimali Nakwezomnotho kuya kunyaka wezi-2030.

Njengoba sesiphosela i-Democratic Republic of Congo (i-DRC) izintambo sishiya le nhlango evelele endaweni enamandla amakhulu.

INingizimu Afrika izoqhubeka nokudlala indima yayo ukukhulisa ukuhlangana ezwenikazi, nokwesekela uSihlalo ozongena nenhlango emizamweni yayo yokufeza izifiso ze-Agenda 2063 ye-AU.

Ngesikhathi iNhlango Yobumbano Lwamazwe ase-Afrika isungulwa ngonyaka we-1963, Amazwe Angamalungu atshala imbewu yokusebenzisana nobumbano ukuze kuzozwa impilo engcono yabo bonke abantu base-Afrika.

Akuqinisa ukuthi ukubumbana kwe-Afrika kwakubaluleke kakhulu uma inhla-lakahle nenhlalohle yabantu base-Afrika kwakumele iqinisekise.

Umlando unobufakazi bokuthi le mbewu ayiwe-langa njalo nje emhlabathini ovundile, eminyakeni edlule umsebenzi wobumbano lwezwekazi usubhekane nezithiyo eziningi nokuqala kokusebenza okuyinkohliso.

Kodwa ukufa okulethwe yilolu bhuhane sekushukumise amazwe ase-Afrika ukuthi asebenze ngokuhlanganyela.

Kulesi sihogo sosizi lwe-COVID-19, imbewu yobunye nokusebenzisana eyatshalwa izingqalabutho zakithi isiyathela futhi iyachuma.

Lesi sikhathi sokulingwa nesobunzima kube ngesinye sezikhathi ze-AU ezikhethekile.

Kuyintokozo enkulu kakhulu ukunikwa ithuba lokuhola inhlangano ngalesi sikhathi, lapho yabonisa ukuthi achaza ukuthini amagama athi Ubumbano Lwamazwe ase-Afrika.

Leli iphupho elifezekile lapho sonke isakhumusi sezwekazi lethu i-Afrika kumele siziqhenye ngalo futhi bagqugquzeleke ngalo. **U**

COVID-19 vaccines arrive in SA

Allison Cooper

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.

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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>).

Umgomo we-COVID-19: Okudingeka ukuthi ukwazi

Allison Cooper

Njengoba kuzoqaliswa uhlelo olukhulu lwaseNingizimu Afrika lokugomela isifo segciwane le-corona (i-COVID-19) kubasebenzi bezempilo ngoNhlolanja, iphephandaba i-Vuk'uzenzele lidlulisa ulwazi olukhanyisa ngokuthi uyini umgomo we-COVID-19, usebenza kanjani futhi kungani ubalulekile ekunqandeni ukubhebhethaka kwegciwane le-corona.

Umgomo wenzani?

Umgomo uqeqesha izivikela zifo zomzimba wakho (okuyizona ezilwa nokwesuleleka), ukuthi zikhiqize amasotsha omzimba (okungamaprotheni alwa nezifo) – ngokufana ncmishi nanjengoba bekungenzeka uma bewuvuleleke egciwaneni.

Kungani ubaluleke kangaka umgomo?

Ukugomela i-COVID-19 kuyindlela esebenzayo ukuzivikela egciwaneni ngoba

kwehlisa ubungozi bokuthi usuleleke ngegciwane. Lapho-ke asuke esemancane amathuba okuthi ungadlulisela igciwane komunye umuntu.

Inhlosongqangi yokugoma ukuthi sifinyelele enanini elanele lokugonywa kwabantu – uma abantu abenele sebeligomele leli gciwane lokhu kuhlinzeka ukuvikeleka kulabo abangaligomele, kanti lokho kwenza izinga lokubhebhethaka kwegciwane lilawuleke.

Ngakube imigomo ibalulekile ukunqanda ukubhebhethaka kwe-COVID-19?

Kunobufakazi obunzulu bososayensi obeseke ukuthi ukugoma kuyiyona ndlela ehamba phambili yokuzivikela ekwesulelekeni okudla lubi.

Ngakube umgomo ungavimbela ukuthi ngingayitholi i-COVID-19?

Awukho umgomo ohlinzeka ngokuvikeleka okungama-

phesenti ayi-100.

Ukugonywa kwenani elanele labantu nakho kakuhlinzeka ngokuvikeleka okuphelele kulabo abangomile. Noma kunjalo, ngokugonywa kwenani elanele labantu, laba bantu bazoba nokuvikeleka okusezingeni elikahle.

Ngakube ukugoma kuphephile na?

Imigomo ye-COVID-19 idlula kwinqubo enomsebenzi omkhulu, enezigabagaba zokuhlola, okubandakanya ukuhlolwa kokusebenza kwayo okufaka phakathi izinkulungwane eziyishumi zabantu.

Wonke umgomo osetshe-nzisiwe ohlelweni lokugoma abantu abaningi eNingizimu Afrika kumele ugunyazwe ukusetshenziswa inhlango Yeziphathimandla Ezilawula Imikhiqizo Yezempilo eNingizimu Afrika i-South African Health Products Regulatory Authority.

Umgomo i-Oxford University-AstraZeneca usuvele ugunyaziwe kakade ngabalawuli abehlukahlukene

emhlabeni jikelele futhi usuqalile ukukhishwa unikezwe abantu kwamanye amazwe.

Ngakube iNingizimu Afrika izoyithola kuphi imigomo yayo yokuqala?

Amaqoqo okuqala amabili emigomo azofika eNingizimu Afrika (abalelwa esigidini ngoMasingana kanye nayizi-500 000 ngoNhlolanja) ngawemigomo i-Oxford University-AstraZeneca evela e-Serum Institute of India.

Ngobani abazothola umgomo kuqala?

Izwe lilinganisele ekutheni abasebenzi bezempilo ababalelwa kwisigidi esi-1.25 yibona abazothola umgomo kuqala.

Esigabeni Sesibili, abasebenzi abenza imisebenzi engumongo njengothisha, amaphoyisa, abasebenzi bakwamasipala, abashayeli bamatekisi kanye nabanye abasebenzi abasebenza phambili; abantu abasezikhungweni ezinjengamakhaya abantu abadala,

izindawo zabaswele amakhaya kanye nasemajele; nabantu abaneminyaka engaphezulu kwama-60 ubudala kanye nabantu abadala abanezifo ezingamahlalakhona bazobekwa eqhulwini kulolu hlelo lokugoma.

Esigabeni Sesithathu, cishe abantu ababalelwa kwizigidi ezingama-22.5 zalabo bantu abadala ezisele bazogonywa.

Inani labantu okubhekeke ukuba ligonywe ngaphambi kokuba unyaka wezi-2021 uphele lilinganiselwa kumaphesenti angama-67. Ngaleso sikhathi sizobe sesifinyelele ekugonyweni kwenani elanele labantu.

Ngubani othenga umgomo?

Uhulumeni nguye kuphela othenga imigomo futhi uzoyithumela kohulumeni bezifundazwe kanye nemikhakha ezimele.

Bonke labo asebegonyiwe bazofakwa kwirejista kazwelonke futhi bahlinzekwe ngamakhadi okugoma.

Lolu lwazi nilulethelwa nguMnyango Wezempilo