

Vuk'uzenzele

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Gogos' vaccine joy



Nomamelika Philiso (119) is all smiles after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.



Chithekile Hlabisa (101) has already beaten COVID-19 once and has ensured she is protected from the virus by having the vaccine.

More Matshediso and Ndyabo Kopo

Phase 2 of South Africa's mass vaccination programme is reaching the elderly across the country, at vaccination sites and in their homes.

Recently, 119-year-old Nomamelika Philiso of Mandleni village in KwaBhaca in the Eastern Cape received her first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

Community health workers visited Philiso's home during a door-to-door campaign to register those who are over 60 years of age on the Electronic Vaccination Data System (EVDS).

They registered Philiso on the EVDS and not long after she was vaccinated at her home by senior health professional Thobeka Ludidi from Madzikane KaZulu Hospital.

Ludidi first screened Philiso before administering the vaccine.

Happy and grateful

Philiso expressed gratitude to government for ensuring that she benefited from the vaccination programme.

"I am short of words. I am just happy and grateful," she says.

While Philiso's husband passed away in 1964 and eight of her nine children have also passed away, she is looking forward to spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Another recently vaccinated gogo is 101-year-old Chithekile Hlabisa from Mzingazi in Richards Bay.

She received the first dose of the vaccine at Ngwelezana Hospital.

Hlabisa is extremely grateful to have received the vaccine as she spent four weeks in hospital due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) earlier this year.

Having battled with a heart condition for most of her life, she says it was only by God's grace that she survived. Unfortunately, one of

her daughters succumbed to the disease.

Waiting patiently

Chithekile encourages other senior citizens to take the jab.

"I have been waiting patiently for the vaccine. Having survived COVID-19 and being hospitalised for this virus can be a scary episode.

"I was happy to hear that now we are vaccinating. All people my age and younger than me should take the vaccination as soon as possible."

While she admits she was initially afraid, Hlabisa says receiving more information about the vaccine put her mind at ease.

Pulling out all the stops

Efforts are being made by various sectors to ensure that as many people over the age of 60 as possible register on the EVDS.

Pension payout points, where thousands of the elderly queue for their

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Bafsa ba bohlokwa kudu go rena

Ka la 16 Phupu 1976, bafsa ba Soweto le ba ka dikarolong tše dingwe-tša naga ba ile ba ikemela kgahlanong le tlhokego ya tekatekano ye e bego e bakwa ke seo se bitšwago Thuto ya Bathobaso (*Bantu Education*).

Ka letšatši leo le ka matšatši ao a latetšego, batho ba bantši ba ile ba lahlegelwa ke maphelo. Ba ile ba bolawa ke mmušo wo mošoro wo o bego sa kgathalelego maphelo a bathobaso le go se nagana selo ge o thuntšha bana ba sekolo bao ba bego ba se ba itlhama ba bego ba apere yunifomo.

Ditiragalo tše di ile tša maatlafatša maikutlo a boditšhabatšhaba kgahlanong le mmušo wa kgethologanyo le go tsenya letsogo go tšwela pele go ntwaga kgahlanong le kgethologanyo.

Bafsa ga ba thome go eta pele megwanto ya setšhaba, go thoma ka megwanto ya go lwantšha bobušanoši ka Latin America ka mengwageng ya bo 1950, le ka megwanto ya go ralala le Afrika ka bophara ka mengwageng ya bo 1960.

Histori ka go tshephagala e bega seabe seo se kgathilwego ke moloko wa bafsa ba 1976 go lesolo la baithuti la boditšhabatšhaba le ntlhakemo ya lona kgahlanong le kgatelelo le tlhokego ya toka.

Tiragalo ye e sego ya ka ya bonwa yeo e diregilego mengwaga ye 45 ye e fetilego e tšwela pele go ketelwa go ralala le Afrika le lefaseng ka bophara.

Ka fao go tloga go kweša bohloko ge tsebo ya ditiragalo tša la 16 Phupu di hwelela go bafsa ba maAfrika Borwa.

Se se tloga se le ka tsela yeo gareng ga bao ba bitšwago Moloko wa Z, goba bafsa bao ba belegwego magareng ga ngwaga wa 1997 le 2015.

Dinyakišišo tša Maikutlo ka ga MaAfrika Borwa tša 2019/2020 tše di phatlaladitšwego ke Lekgotla la Dinyakišišo ka ga Dithutamahlale tša Batho di hweditše gore palo ye e lego kgauswi le 40% ya Moloko wa Z ga se ya kwa ka ga ditiragalo tša histori tša la 16 Phupu.

Persente ya go lekana le ye e kwele ka ga yona eupša e tseba gannyane goba ga e tsebe selo ka ga yona.

Le ge go le bjale, dinyakišišo di hweditše gape gore bafsa ba moloko wo ba lokologile go ithuta ka ga ditiragalo tša historing tše bohlokwa ebile ba dumela go bohlokwa bja tšona bjo bo tšwelago pele.

Re swanetše go dira tše ntši bjalo ka naga go netefatša gore molaetša wa 1976 o fetišwa ka botshephegi.

A ke maikarabelo mmogo a mmušo, dikolo, dihlolongwa tša thuto ya godingwana, batswadi, malapa, baopedi, badiragatši, le batho ka moka setšhabeng.

Moloko wo o belegwego ka morago ga kgethologanyo o feleleditše o hweditše naga yeo e nago le Molaotheo wa temokrasi le fao ditokologo tše bohlokwa di šireleditšwego.

Dibaka tše bafsa ba bathobaso ba nago le tšona le hono

bobedi di fapana kudu ebile di kaonafaditšwe kudu.

Go dira gore kanegelo ya la 16 Phupu e phele ke sego-potšo go moloko wa le hono ka ga ditšhitelego tše kgolo tše di dirilwego go hwetša tokologo ya bona.

Letšatši la Bafsa ke sego-potšo sa maatla a magolo le tšhoganetšo ya gore bafsa ba swanetše go itirela bokamoso bjo bokaone.

Mathata a bafsa ka Afrika Borwa ke a mantši le hono.

Bafsa ba tšwetše pele go eta pele ntwaga ya go lwela ditokelo tša bona, ba ka be ba lwela thuto ya bona goba ba le kgahlanong le ditiro tša go se nyakege setšhabeng tša go swana le dikgaruru tša bong. Lehono se segolo seo bafsa ba se lwelago ke tlhokego ya mešomo, yeo e mpefetšego kudu ka fase ga seemo sa leuba la COVID-19.

Go hlomela bafsa dibaka tše ntši, le go fihlelela dibaka tše, ke selo seo mmušo o se beilego pele kudu.

Se sengwe le se sengwe seo re se dirago bjalo ka mmušo se tsenya letsogo go kaonafatšeng maphelo a bafsa. Go lwantšhaba le tlhokego ya mešomo go bafsa go nyaka gore re akgofiše kgolo ya ekonomi, kudukudu ka makaleng ao a nyakago bašomi ba bantši, le go aga bokgoni bja mmušo gore o kgone go phethagatša mošomo wa ona wa tlhabollo.

Re tšwetša pele lenaneo le ka go diriša ditsenogare tše di nepištšwego. Tšona di akaretša Tlhohleletšo ya Tlhomo ya mešomo ka Mopresidente, yeo e fanego ka

dibaka tša mešomo le thekgo ya go iphedisa ga bafsa ba bantši.

Re tsebagaditše semmušo mehutahuta ya magato a tlaleletšo a go hloma dibaka tša mešomo, a go maatlafatša tlhabollo ya mabokgoni, a go thekga bafsa bao ba hlomago dikgwebo le go kgontšha go kgatha tema ka botlalo ga bafsa ka ekonoming.

Seseakaretšwagohlongwaga Netweke ya Bosetšhaba ya Taolo ya Dibaka, ya Bafsa ba Afrika Borwa, go dira gore go be Bonolo gore bafsa ba bone le go fihlelela dibaka le go hwetša thekgo ye e bonagalago gore ba hwetša dibaka tša go tsena ka mmarakeng wa bašomi.

Tšona di gareng ga dilo tše di beilwego pele ke Tsenogare ya Mopresidente ya Tlhomo ya Mešomo ya Bafsa ya Mopresidente, yeo e tsebagaditšwego dibeke pele ga ge re tsena go kiletšo ya mesepele ngwageng wo o fetilego yeo bjale mo lebakeng le e tsenego go phethagatšo ka botlalo.

Tsenogare ya Mipresidente ya Tlhomo ya Mešomo ya Bafsa e hlomilwe go kwešišo ya gore go rarolla mathata a tlhokego ya mešomo ka bafsa e nyakago gore go be le monagano wa maithomelo le tirišano ye e tiilego go ralala le setšhaba.

Maikemišetšo a yona mafelelong ke go mekgwa ye e šomago, e ka ba ka tlhabollo ya mabokgoni goba ka go melawana ye e šomago ya mmaraka wa bašomi, le go

di beakanya gore di fihlelele batho ba bantši ka fao go kgonagalago.

Se bohlokwa kudu ke gore, e lemoga gore bafsa ba swanetše go ba bohlokwa go matsapa a mangwe le a mangwe a go thekgalenaneo la tlhomo ya mešomo ya bafsa. Bafsa ke thoto ya rena ye bohlokwa, le sebetša sa rena se segolo mo ntweng ye.

Re reta kgotlelelo ya mofsa yo mongwe le yo mongwe yo a kgathago tema ya gagwe go aga le go hlabolla naga ye.

Bafsa ba rena ba ithaopa ka ditšhabeng tša rena, ba aga naga ya rena ka go diriša Tlhohleletšo ya Tlhomo ya mešomo ka Mopresidente, ba itirela dikgwebo tša bona le go ithuta gore ba be ba bakaone bophelong.

Ke bafsa bao ba itirelago bokamoso bja bona gomme ba dira seo ba na le ba malapa a bona.

Re reta bafsa bao ba tšwelago pele go kaonafatša maphelo a bona. Bafsa ba kgatha tema ya bona; ba hloka mmušo, le ka nnete setšhaba ka moka, gore se kgatha tema ya sona.

Naga ya rena e mo seemong se boima kudu, eupša re šoma letšatši le lengwe le le lengwe go katološa dikholofelo tša rena.

Re bona go tšwelela ga kgolo ya ekonomi, gomme re na le boitšhepo bja gore se se tla tliša dibaka tše kaone go bohle. Mošomo wa rena ke go netefatša gore bafsa ba ikemišeditše ebile ba kgona go fihlelela dibaka tše, le go itlhamela dibaka tša bona.

Driving COVID-19 jabs in Ekurhuleni

SOUTH AFRICA has launched its first drive-through COVID-19 vaccination site.

Allison Cooper

Ekurhuleni residents have the option to get their Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) vaccinations in the comfort of their cars, after the country's first drive-through vaccination site was launched in Boksburg, Gauteng.

Residents who registered on the Electronic Vaccine Data System and selected the International Christian Family Church as their vaccination site are receiving their vaccines without having to step out of their car to queue.

Johan Vander-Vyver, the first community member to get his COVID-19 vaccine at the drive-through vaccination site, was delighted to have received the jab in his car.



Ekurhuleni residents receive their COVID-19 vaccines in their cars at a drive-through vaccination site.

"This is definitely a great initiative, that is hassle free. I'm being observed in my own vehicle, which also reduces the amount of contact with other people and limits any exposure to COVID-19. I strongly encourage other residents over 60 to consider the drive-through site," he says.

Some Ekurhuleni residents were so impressed with the service that they post-

ed about it on Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality's Facebook page.

"My parents went there today and it was amazing. Organised, friendly, efficient staff. What an excellent idea! Well done," says Gillian Dansie.

"What an excellent way of keeping us – the over 60s safe," says Marie de Bruyn.

"I took my folks yesterday. Great initiative. The staff

were extremely friendly and helpful. All-in-all it was a pleasant experience, well done," says Lyndsey Daniels.

Gauteng Health Ekurhuleni District Manager Terrance Magoro says the initiative is a way of adding more vaccination sites to reach as many people as possible.

"This facility that we are in is quite large. It has three entrances and we are only using

one at the moment. We will expand and open two more entrances so we can vaccinate more people... We want to reach 1 200 vaccinations per day at this facility," he adds.

Standard screening and verification

Residents who make use of the drive-through vaccination site still go through the standard COVID-19 screening and verification process, before receiving their vaccine, but they also stay in their car during this process.

Following the screening, the COVID-19 shot is administered by a professional nurse. The patients then drive to the observation station where they are observed for 15 minutes, for any adverse vaccine effects.

The site is open from 8am

AwezaMed bridges COVID-19 language divide

An innovative language app is helping ensure that South Africans receive Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) information in a language they are familiar with, potentially saving lives.

The local mobile app, AwezaMed, is aimed at breaking down language barriers to improve safety protocols, communication and other COVID-19-related information.

According to the Department of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, language remains a serious challenge in conveying this life-saving information during the deadly pandemic, especially in a country like South Africa with 11 official languages.

Multilingualism is vital to ensure healthcare professionals and patients understand



each other and the voice-enabled AwezaMed app will help to make this possible.

"In the context of healthcare, it is common that the healthcare provider and

patient often do not share a common language.

"This results in serious challenges, such as a poorer patient experience, incorrect diagnoses, increased stress levels for the patient and misunderstandings about post-consultation self-care instructions," says Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister Dr Blade Nzimande.

AwezaMed was developed by the department's entity, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

It features localised technology, such as speech recognition, text-to-speech and machine translation.

"The app enables healthcare providers to access a phrase in English, translate it into any South African official language and play the phrase in the selected language," says the Minister.

The content of the app was

developed in collaboration with health experts.

The app, which currently works on any Android smartphone, also has a database of over 1 800 questions, reassurances, explanations, patient responses and key vocabulary curated by a team of medical professionals.

In addition, automatic speech recognition allows for the recognition and transcription of speech in any of the 11 official languages, while machine translation takes input text in the source language and translates it into the target language.

The Minister believes the app holds potential benefits for the public health sector beyond COVID-19, as it will go a long way towards improving trust between healthcare providers and patients, allowing for more diagnoses that are accurate and save lives.

AwezaMed can be accessed free on the Google Play Store at <http://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=za.co.aweza.covid19>.

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