

## Visit by Eastern Cape Health Portfolio Committee in Nelson Mandela Metro

A meeting was called by the Health Portfolio Committee Eastern Cape on 21 and 22 July 2021 at the Dora Nginza Hospital with all social partners and Management from the ECDOH of Nelson Mandela Metro. The Portfolio Committee raised its concerns in the wake of numbers of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths which are noticeable in this Province. More than half of these cases are from the Nelson Mandela Metro and Sarah Baartman District.

The purpose of this meeting was to obtain a report from ECDOH with a descriptive analysis of the situation in the Metro, including its response to deal with the current situation to bring it to a zero-infection rate. The detailed report that was presented by the ECDOH, basically covered the following points:

- New and active cases
- COVID-related deaths
- Hospitalisations and recoveries
- Healthcare workers
- The following points were also highlighted during the presentation that dealt with the vaccine roll-out:
  - Mitigation actions, including radio slots, social mobilisation for vaccination sites, registration drives for churches, contact tracing and tracking, community based mobile testing.
  - During July, pop-up sites for vaccination were introduced at SASSA pay points, Boxer grocery stores, shopping malls (including Met Life Plaza and Daku Mall), Momentum Metropolitan vaccination centre and Njoli Square, all in Gqeberha.

The following sites are to commence soon: VW plant, NMM OH Clinic, Continental factory, Old Age Homes, and Coega Development Corporation.

Following the reports given by the ECDOH, Health Portfolio Committee members and labour raised various questions, including clarification and reflecting on presentations made. Filling of posts and lack of leadership at hospitals owing to managers appointed in acting capacities was raised by all stake holders as a serious concern that needed urgent attention of which the Portfolio Committee promised to raise these challenges with Treasury to see how the Metro can be assisted.

Members are urged to utilise these opportunities to vaccinate at any of the sites indicated. Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER