

MEDIA STATEMENT

All media

29 May 2020

DEPARTMENT CLARIFIES INACCURATE REPORTS ABOUT COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE AT MALL OF THE NORTH

Limpopo Health Department wishes to request members of the public to refrain from perpetuating panic by spreading inaccurate reports suggesting that an employee of Woolworths Mall of the North have tested positive for COVID-19. As far as we are concerned, it is one of our positive cases, case number 136 who during contact tracing mentioned that she visited two shops at Mall of the North one of which is Woolworths on the 23rd of May 2020. Subsequent to receiving her results she called the store manager to inform him about her visit.

As such, the department is of the firm view that there is no need for members of the public to panic for as long as they follow the set guidelines to avoid contracting the virus. "This panick and pandamonium about such an issue unfortunately perpetuate the stigma against COVID 19 positive people and is also an indication to us that some of our people are not adhering to the set guidelines of sanitising, practicing social distance and covering themselves. We reiterate our message of treating each and every one of us as if we are COVID 19 positive. Through that we will protect ourselves and also avoid discrimination ," said MEC Ramathuba.

We have since deployed our team to visit the mall and provide education especially to the staff of Woolworths. We are also warning the public that as number of infections increases, we must expect a lot of panic with more fake news spreading. To avoid this let's stay safe and avoid going to the malls and other public areas when it's not critical.

We therefore call upon people to refrain sharing the false reports as that will be equal to spreading fake news which is a prosecutable offence under the COVID-19 Lockdown rules. Reporting on COVID-19 cases must be left in the hands of the designated authority, as it is the norm in South Africa

END

Thilivhali Muavha

MEC's Spokesperson

0660117034

Neil Shikwambana

Department Spokesperson

0664799887