

Media Advisory

To All Media

29 June 2020

HEALTH MEC DR PHOPHI RAMATHUBA TO UNVEIL A TESTING LABORATORY IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT DE BEERS VENETIA MINE

Limpopo Health MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba will unveil a testing laboratory in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic at Dr Beers Venetia Mine in Musina. The laboratory will play a vital role in the diagnostic testing processes of COVID-19 for employees, contractors and communities, and is expected to analyze at least 80 tests per day within a 24 hours turnout time for results.

Through this partnership with the Limpopo Department of Health, the laboratory will also analyse test samples from other hospitals and health facilities in the province that are identified for screening positive Covid-19 patients from Venetia and the communities surrounding the mine.

"We recognize the the important role that we play in our host communities, not just from a socio-economic perspective, but also the provision of a number of vital services. We fully support the government's efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19, and we are proud to work alongside the Limpopo government, community leaders and our various partners in providing necessary support to the vulnerable members of our society during these challenges times"said Mpumi Zikalala from De Beers Venetia Mine.

" We welcome this development as a department of health which will go a long way in assisting us as government to deal with the current testing backlog. As a resource constrained department we do appreciate every single collaboration especially the once like this laboratory which not only will it focus on testing employees of Venetia mine only, but community members where this mine is located ." Said MEC Ramathuba

Together we can fight this COVID-19 pandemic.

The visit is scheduled as follows:

Venue: De Beers Venetia Mine(Musina)

Date: 30 June 2020

Time: 11h00

End.

Thilivhali Muavha

MEC's Spokesperson

0660117034

Neil Shikwambana

Department Spokesperson

0664799887