

Media Alert  
To All media  
28 April 2020

## HEALTH MEC TO COMMISSION THE USE OF NEW TESTING LABORATORIES FOR COVID-19

Limpopo Health MEC Dr Phophi Ramathuba will visit Mankweng Hospital to commission the use of the testing laboratory machines.

These laboratory machines are the only two in the whole of the Province with one being in Mankweng Hospital and the other in Pietersburg Hospital. The machine in Mankweng is Roche Cobas which is a big assay with high volumes and can test 300 to 400 samples a day. In Pietersburg Hospital there is GeneXpert assay that takes an hour to produce results

These machines will help to fast track the COVID-19 tests samples as they come and results are issued within an hour. With these machines, the Province will be in par to compete with the rest of the world for reagents results. There is no need to batch samples, as samples are tested as they come.

“Mankweng machine is already functional and as a results we saw a huge improvement in the number of tests conducted during the massive screening and testing campaign. With the addition of Pietersburg GeneXpert machine, we can only see more tests being conducted” said MEC Ramathuba

The visit has been scheduled as follows:

Date: 29 April 2020  
Venue: Mankweng Hospital  
Time: 12h00

End

Media is invited.

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