

**ADDRESS BY MEC MOTLALEPULA ROSHO DURING THE DEPARTMENTAL  
VOOMA VACCINATION DRIVE EVENT HELD ON 05 NOVEMBER 2021 AT**

**Head of Department, Rre Kunene**

**Departmental Executive and Senior Management,**

**All service providers,**

**Officials from Department of Health**

**Staff members**

Dumelang bagaetsho

Re kopane mo letsatsing la gompiano ka ntlha ya kgwetho e tona e e re lebaganeng ya go lwantsha sera se se re tlasetseng sa mogare wa Corona. Bagaetsho, Motswana o kile a bua a re sedikwa ke ntswa pedi ga se thata mme e bile kgetse ya tsie e kgonwa ka go tshwaraganelwa.

We are gathered here today to continue with the clarion call made by the President to intensify our efforts to enable more of our communities to access the COVID-19 vaccines, Public servants included. Therefore as the Department we, deemed it necessary to converge under the theme" **Reduce COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths by going for the jab**" as part of the ongoing Vooma campaign which was launched in the beginning of October.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will recall that when Premier Kaobitsa Bushy Maape launched the Vooma vaccination campaign in Bojanala District on 02 October, he explained that through the Vooma Vaccination Weekend drive, government seeks to intensify the inoculation drive across all provinces by mobilising communities to get vaccinated against

COVID-19. This is to ensure that the national population immunity target set for December this year is achieved. Addressing the local communities during the provincial launch, Premier Maape urged them to make use of the vaccination opportunity in order to fight and defeat Coronavirus, saying this is a historical mission for all of us. "If we continue with vaccine hesitancy, history will record and judge us for failing to defeat this enemy, even though we have been encouraged many times to vaccinate"

On the same breath, we encourage officials and members of the public who are still hesitant towards COVID-19 vaccines, to vaccinate in order to reduce chances of death, serious illness and hospitalizations from contracting the Coronavirus. We also urge public servants to be a mouth piece for government and empower community members with relevant information that will give them hope to vaccinate. This is also to ensure that we return to normality and open up the economy.

Re a le gwetllha re le boeteledipele ba puso go re thusa go rotloetsa baagi kwa gae gore ba ye kwa mafelong a a farologaneng a go thaba moento wa COVID-19 gonne seno ruri se tla ba tswela mosola mme ebile re ka itemogela kwelotlase ya dipalopalo tsa tshwaetsego. Bagaetsho re a itse gore Roma ga a agiwa ka letsatsi le le nosi mme ra re kgengwe wa lekwa. Re ka fitlhelela maitlhommo a rona fa fela re ka nna leitlho la setshaba mme ra efoga mokgwa wa go rotloetsa kgotsa go phasalatsa melaetsa e e senang boammaruri mme e tsenya letshogo mo baaging ka ga meento ya COVID-19.

The spread of misinformation on social media and through other channels can affect COVID-19 vaccine confidence. Misinformation often arises when there are information gaps or unsettled science, as human nature seeks to reason, better understand, and fill in the gaps.

Ladies and gentlemen, we recognise how difficult this decision can be. There is so much conflicting news from the subtle to the absurd, and it is fair to say this whole pandemic

emergency has been politicised beyond recognition. It is so disappointing that the massive virus did not bring us all together rather than tear us apart, but we are reaching a point where we just want to make sure that everyone is making as informed decision as possible, for themselves, their families and co-workers. We do not know what future variants will threaten us, and we are all angry and tired of masking, social distancing and being told what to do. But one comforting message that has been put forward by scientists is that COVID -19 vaccines are safe and that there has never been a scientific evidence that proved that there are deaths registered as a result of these vaccines.

The health fraternity has also reiterated that COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective at preventing COVID-19, including severe illness and death. It is also stated that infections happen in only a small proportion of people who are fully vaccinated, even with the Delta variant. When these infections occur among vaccinated people, they tend to be mild.

As I stand before you today, it is not my intention to convince you to get vaccinated, I respect that it is a decision you alone can make, but my motivations are good. I want to ensure that our employees are making fully informed decisions because of various personal motivations.

I care about how you feel and at times like these, there can be strength in numbers as we come together to support one another and have others backs. Basically you and I want the same thing, we just have to figure out how to get there. I urge you to step away from various media news and streams and think about this more reflectively, speak with your family members about their concerns and fears, ask them about the sudden tidal wave of new cases and most importantly, call your physician especially if it is someone you trust. That will be your best resource.

Ladies and gentlemen, when it is all said and done, the vaccine will become the antidote to a pandemic that is limiting our freedom and threatening our future. But we are only going to get there collectively if we share wisdom, raise awareness and gently point employees to their best resource on the matter.

Care and respect can melt cold hearts, and all but heal the deepest scars. The momentum is changing quickly in favour of vaccinations, even on media channels that once fiercely resisted them. A gentle, respectful nudge of guidance may be all that is needed to move the national dialogue in a whole new direction and it can happen with one person at a time.

We are again calling on all public servants to come forward and contribute towards their own health safety and that of your families, friends, co-workers by vaccinating.

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank the employees of the department for their support since the outbreak of the pandemic and ensured that there is business continuity. The services offered by the department were never interrupted, instead the bar for excellence has been raised.

Team Finance, you have sacrificed your own safety and well-being in this crisis, we are eternally grateful. We wish you safety and health as you forge ahead to get us to the other side of this pandemic. Your contributions are appreciated, and we thank you in our prayers, hearts, and minds each and every day.

Your response towards taking the vaccine demonstrates that you are indeed steering the public service into the right direction.

**Stay strong and THANK YOU!**