

MEDIA STATEMENT

SUNDAY, 05 DECEMBER 2021

GAUTENG HEALTH CONDEMNS THE ATTACK ON VACCINATION TEAMS

The Gauteng Department of Health condemns in the strongest possible terms the attack on Tshwane District vaccination team yesterday (Saturday, 04 December) in Soshanguve, North of Pretoria around 09h00.

Five armed men who were in a white Toyota Quantum at Wonder City Taxi Rank in Soshanguve robbed the vaccination team at gunpoint. The perpetrators fled with vaccination programme gadgets which consist of three tablets, one smart phone and six cellphones belonging to the team.

In another incident which took place last week on the 29 November, a West Rand Health District Services bakkie was hijacked with mobile site equipment and gazebos in Chamdor, Kagiso.

The cases of robbery for both incidents have been opened at Soshanguve and Kagiso police stations.

Fortunately no team members were harmed in both cases and counselling will be provided to the affected staff.

These senseless acts occurred at a time when the province is ramping up the vaccination programme by activating more vaccination sites in all the districts in order to vaccinate as many people as possible.

Our healthcare workers remain the backbone of the health system, even during the pandemic as they continue to play a pivotal role in terms of vaccination programme rollout.

We call on all members of society to work with law enforcement agencies and to share any information they might have on the two incidents.

Ends/

For more information, contact Kwara Kekana, Spokesperson of Gauteng MEC for Health: Gauteng Department of Health on 082 737 7227 or <u>mediaenquiries.@gauteng.gov.za</u>.

For media releases, speeches and news visit the Gauteng Department of Health'sportal at <u>www.gauteng.gov.za</u>

Download Mpilo App free on the Apple's App Store and Google Play Store or by using USSD by dialing *134*227# for regular updates and latest developments on Covid-19 including self-screening should you develop symptoms.