

TO : ALL MEDIA

ATT : NEWS EDITORS

DATE : 25 MARCH 2020

For immediate release

SUSPENSION OF GAUTENG 2020 WINTER SEASON INITIATION

The Gauteng Initiating Task Team convened an urgent meeting yesterday, 24 March 2020 as a response to the pronouncement of President Cyril Ramaphosa's National Lockdown from midnight 26th March 2020 until 16th April 2020.

We held a marathon teleconference with all our stakeholders in Gauteng. These included Traditional Leaders, Municipalities, Sector Departments, SAPS, CRL Rights Commission, CONTRALESA, Gauteng Initiation Monitoring team and Regional Initiation Committees.

We unanimously resolved to suspend the 2020 Winter initiation season, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic currently taking place around the world, in South Africa and in particular the rapid increase of prevalence in Gauteng.

All our stakeholders did not find it difficult to make this decision as they are aware of the developments and the rapid spread of Covid 19 in Gauteng. They fully support the call that has been made by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Minister of Health as well as various regulations that have been announced. We believe that we all need to do our part in reducing the spread by washing hands regularly, minimising contacts, exercising social distance and staying at home.

We plead with all our Communities to heed the call to stay home during this period in order to flatten the curve and reduce the spread.

#washyourhands
#flattenthecurve
#stayathome

END

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