MEDIA STATEMENT

SUNDAY, 23 JANUARY 2022

GAUTENG HEALTH CONDEMNS WITH CONTEMPT ATTACKS ON MOBILE VACCINATION TEAMS

The Gauteng Department of Health condemns with the utmost contempt the robbery of the Tshwane Health District vaccination teams on Friday.

The continued attacks on mobile vaccination teams, who are taking the vaccine programme to the community are not only putting the lives of healthcare workers in danger, but they have negative impact on the vaccination programme.

In yet another incident, our partner Pulse Health team which is supporting Soshanguve Block JJ vaccination team was robbed at gun point on Friday (21 January) by a group of five men at a pop-up vaccination site next to Rivoningo Primary School in Soshanguve around 13h30.

The incident happened as the vaccination team was busy at the pop-up vaccination site. The perpetrators fled with vaccination programme gadgets which consist of two tablets and five cellphones belonging to the team.

The matter was reported at Rietgat police station, where a case was opened (case number: 302/1/2022).

Fortunately, none of the team members were harmed and counselling will be provided to the affected staff.

In December last year another mobile vaccination team was robbed at gunpoint at a pop-up vaccination site in Wonder City Taxi Rank in Soshanguve.

Members of the community need to rise in defence of the vaccination teams as the situation is getting out of hand. All these incidents are happening at the times when the government is trying to increase vaccine access by

taking the vaccination programme closer to the people.

We call on all members of society to work with law enforcement agencies to ensure that these perpetrators are brought to book.

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

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