

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**TO: All Media**

**ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters**

**For immediate release**

Thursday, 11 June 2020

### **STATEMENT ON THE TWO POSITIVE CASES IN THE OFFICE OF THE MEC FOR HEALTH IN GAUTENG**

The Gauteng Department of Health wishes to confirm that two officials in the Office of the MEC for health have tested positive for COVID-19, namely; the Spokesperson Ms. Kwara Kekana and Mr. Julius Maputla, the Manager for Stakeholder Relations. These two officials are part of the officials who frequent the Provincial Disaster Management Centre. On Monday, 8 June the Office of the Premier publicly announced that there were officials who tested positive at the command centre.

As a standard, the Office of the MEC has a public duty to declare positive cases as part of the drive to fight against stigma and ignorance surrounding COVID-19, as well as to promote transparency. Further, it must be noted that COVID-19 is a notifiable disease and both officials have consented to the public declaration of their respective results and status. Contact tracing and measures applicable after the confirmation of a positive case have been followed.

As part of established protocol, the two employees are currently in self-isolation at their respective homes for the prescribed period. Both the Gauteng Health provincial Central Office and the Disaster Management Centre have been disinfected and soon after, declared fit for operation.

Once more, we wish to confirm that so far, the MEC for Health Dr Bandile Masuku who has to date tested five times, as well as the remainder of the officials in his office, remain negative in terms of confirmed test results. The Department and the MEC wishes the two officials, who remain in high spirits, a speedy recovery. The Department will keep the public informed on their progress.

As part of the business continuity plan, Ms Kekana will not be available for interactions that require physical engagement. Until further notice, media enquiries can be directed to Mr Philani Mhlungu, Media Liaison Officer: MEC for Health on 060 961 2627 or [Philani.Mhlungu@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Philani.Mhlungu@gauteng.gov.za), and Mr Motalatale Modiba, Chief Director Communication on 064 803 0808 or [Motalatale.Modiba@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:Motalatale.Modiba@gauteng.gov.za) or to the central email [mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za](mailto:mediaenquiries@gauteng.gov.za).

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**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Health**

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