

MEDIA STATEMENT

23 SEPTEMBER 2021

EMBARGOED: IMMEDIATE

HEALTH MEC ACCEPTS BULK PPE AND FOOD DONATION FROM GIFT OF THE GIVERS

Eastern Cape Department of Health MEC, the honourable Nomakhosazana Meth braved the scorching Graff-Reinet heat on Thursday, 23 September 2021, when she received much-needed donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) and food supply from humanitarian group, the Gift of the Givers.

The Gift of the Givers donated medicines worth R2-million for the Mthatha Depot, bulk food and hygiene items, linen savers, baby diapers and nappies for elderly patients, pulse oximeters and non-contact thermometers.

The MEC described the donation as a result of a long standing partnership.

"The Gift of the Givers have been one of our partners from day one when COVID-19 hit us in the province. Through this important partnership, the Gift of the Givers have really put their money where their mouths are and came to the party.

"We appreciate such partnerships as they talk to the fact that society understands that fighting this virus is not only a Department of Health or government problem. This virus needs an all hands on deck approach and we have been blessed to have formed strategic partnerships with organisations like the Gift of the Givers, Transnet, non-governmental organisations, businesses, traditional and religious leaders, among many partners.

"These are all crucial supplies in not only fighting the spread of COVID-19, but in continuing to deliver quality healthcare services."

The Gift of the Givers, which also refurbished Bhisho Hospital also committed to drill boreholes in Graff-Reinet, which the MEC welcomed, saying while clinics and hospitals have water tanks, without rainfall, health facilities experience challenges.

"We have water tanks at our facilities but when it does not rain, it becomes another challenge, so these planned boreholes will really assist us.

"From the onset, the Gift of the Givers extended their helping hand and donated personal protective equipment like masks and sanitisers, hospital beds and even revamp Bhisho Hospital. We must also welcome the commitment to upgrade more of our facilities," the MEC said.

She thanked the Gift of the Givers founder Dr Imtiaz Sooliman, whom she said had honoured his commitment of "adopting the Department".

Willowmore Hospital's Dr TJ Hewu thanked the MEC for personally accepting the donation.

Dr Hewu also called on men to get the COVID-19 jab, saying it was safe and effective.

He dismissed notions that taking the vaccine leads to impotence.

"As a man who has vaccinated MEC, I can tell you today that at home they are happy," he said to rapturous applause.

"I can give you the number of my spouse [to verify that]."

Gift of the Givers project manager Corene Conradie, who handed over the donation to the MEC at their warehouse, said they were happy to assist and committed they would continue lending a helping hand to the Department.

Sarah Baartman District Municipality Executive Mayor Eunice Kekana and Dr Beyers Naude mayor Deon de Vos, also welcomed the donation.

Issued by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

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