

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 10 June 2020

<u>DISRUPTION OF SERVICES AT THE GOBLE ROAD REGISTERING AUTHORITY IN DURBAN</u> AMID REPORTS OF A STAFF MEMBER TESTING POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport regrets to inform members of the public of the unplanned disruption of services at the Goble Road Registering Authority in Durban after a staff member tested positive for Covid-19.

This registering centre was opened on Monday, 08 June 2020, to start processing some of the backlog following the National Lockdown closure in March.

The temporary closure and disruption of services with effect from today, 10 June 2020, is as a result of precautionary measures that need to be taken by the Department to allow Health workers to conduct an assessment and screening of all staff members working in this office.

At this stage, there are no indications of any risks to members of the public who visited this office to access various services as the staff member who tested positive was not at work after the registering centre was re-opened on Monday. However, the staff member had been at the centre the previous week as they were preparing to re-open. The Department is following all health and safety Covid-19 protocols and guidelines. This includes the necessary steps that need to be followed when a staff member tests positive.

Once again, the Department wishes to place it on record that the safety of our staff members and community remains of paramount importance. To this end, all necessary Personal Protective Equipments have been provided to staff.

MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison Bheki Ntuli accompanied by senior managers of the Department visited the Goble Road Registering Authority on Monday as part of the inspection of all frontline services. MEC Ntuli has never had any contact with the staff member in question, however he is taking the necessary health and safety precautions. MEC Ntuli further expressed satisfaction with the Department's Covid-19 Recovery Plan and is appealing for maximum compliance.

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Members of the public and car dealerships are urged to use other Registering Authorities, including the uMbilo Road and Pinetown offices in eThekwini. This is in addition to more than 39 post offices and municipalities operating as registering authorities.

The province currently has a backlog of more than 37 000 vehicles due for renewal, over 5000 learners' applications and more than 5000 driver's licence tests which were affected.

Once given the green light by the Department of Health officials, the Goble Road office will re-open and members of the public will be advised accordingly. Member of the public are advised not to panic as there is the 90-days grace window period approved by the Minister of Transport for the renewal of licences that have expired.

Ends/

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