

# VIRTUAL

**FAST-TRACK CITIES 2020**

September 9-10, 2020

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# eThekweni Metropolitan Area

Honourable Mayor Mr Mxolisi  
Kaunda

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## Impact of COVID-19 on citizens of eThekweni

- eThekweni is the only metropolitan City with a population of >3,7million in province of KwaZulu Natal with another 10 districts
- City is the epicenter of COVID-19 with an incidence rate of 67 per 100 000 population
- COVID-19 picture in eThekweni
  - Total cases 53 498,
  - total recoveries 51318, (rate of 95,9%)
  - deaths 1046 (death rate of 2%)
- The City went into lockdown where all movements and all businesses except essential services were closed from 27 March 2020 and currently, city is on level 2 lockdown
- As a business hub of the province city is economically affected

## Support from sub National and National Leadership

- Through District Development, the President had deployed two Deputy Ministers in the Municipality to focus specifically on the city's response to COVID-19 and Gender Base
- Through the provincial government's service delivery model, Operation Sukuma Sakhe ( ward-based service delivery initiative), the Premier deployed a member of his executive as the Metro Champion on all service delivery matters including COVID-19.

# Crisis Leadership during the Pandemic

- The city had to adapt to the prescripts of the National Disaster Act as announced by the President of the country
  - Establishment of COVID-19 Command councils chaired by Me for joint response and monitoring by political and various units in the city (safer cities, disaster management, community participation, policing, health)
  - Establishment of a multidisciplinary special Health COVID-19 command response centre for dealing with positives, contacts and daily tracking of COVID-19 pandemic, identifying hotspots and providing analysis of the pandemic
  - Implement the prescripts of the lockdown through continuous communication with all departments and the citizens of the city to adapt to the living under the new rules to control the spread of the pandemic
  - Continued communication with citizens through various mediums of communication to inform them of developments and education on expected response to COVID-19 to save lives

## Crisis Leadership cont. Preparedness to Deal with COVID Pandemic

- Establishment of COVID-19 special areas in hospitals for effective quarantine and isolation and management of COVID-19 cases
- Partnerships with business sector to establish quarantine areas in hotels and Bed and Breakfast facilities
- Establishment of Health special COVID-19 response teams for active tracing for screening and testing of contacts within 48 hours
- Established 11 shelters for the homeless which housed around 2000 people with provision of essentials and health services
- Identification of the needs in the most affected communities and families and provision of water, food parcels and other basics such as soap and sanitizers.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of public transport facilities

## Maintaining Momentum of HIV and other health response

- HIV and other services were provided at all clinics throughout though in the lockdown level 5 and 4 at minimal levels as there were no outreach services in communities and less numbers were seen at facilities due to lock down restrictions
- Access to HIV and other chronic treatment made available at facilities as people were displaced from their facilities where they routinely receive care
- Home delivery of medications for those that were unable to reach facilities for various reasons
- Continued collection at outside facility pick up points and scripts extended from 6months to 1 year for the stable viral suppressed patients
- Integration of HIV and TB services such as preventive measures condom distribution, health education and screening and testing for TB during COVID-19 household visits

## Maintaining Momentum of HIV and other health response cont.

- City was indeed disturbed by the pandemic but putting services back on track.
- Data cleaning exercise underway to update HIV data identify and address gaps in relation to 90-90-90 targets
- Now at level 2 of lock down resumption of full scale services have started, including outreach services for HIV, TB and non communicable disease screening, testing and treatment initiation
- City is focussing on accelerating services to reach 90-90-90 targets and to cover the lost time during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic



# Multilateralism and City preparedness to respond global pandemic such as COVID-19

- We have partnered with other global cities through the C40 Cities Network to share best practices on issues of climate change.
- We are strengthening partnership with sister cities across the globe and leveraging on strategic partnership at various levels on a global stage within forums such as BRICS and G20.
- We have established field hospitals that will continue to complement existing health facilities.

# Hope for the City and Country as we approach end of COVID-19 pandemic

- The city has developed a comprehensive economic recovery plan to cushion businesses from the impact of COVID-19 and to save jobs and livelihoods.
- Today, we launched the economic council which brings together all social partners including government, business, organised labour, academia and civil society to provide guidance on how to unlock the city's economy post-COVID-19.
- As a vote of confidence in our economic recovery plan, large multinational companies have committed to retain their investments in the city. These companies will re-absorb workers who lost their jobs at the height of COVID-19.

## CONCLUSION

Under the new normal, we need to do things differently and build an inclusive economy driven by social enterprises with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women, children and people with disabilities