



Transnet Phelophepa Trains Visit Communities in Gauteng and North West Provinces

[Johannesburg; 02 September 2020] Transnet's Phelophepa primary health trains will welcome communities in the Gauteng and North West provinces over the next two months.

The Phelophepa II train, which drew in at the Springs station earlier this week, will be servicing communities in Gauteng for the first time in its 26 years of existence.

"The train has previously visited only eight provinces in the country. We are glad to announce that the Gauteng province has now been added to our route. With the addition of Gauteng, the Phelophepa trains will reach all nine provinces in the country providing much needed healthcare to more communities," said Molatwane Likhetho, Head of the Transnet Foundation.

The health train offers eye and oral care, screening for HIV and AIDS, psychological services and medication for minor ailments. The train, also known as a "clinic-on-wheels", is aimed at communities in remote areas that lack access to healthcare facilities.

The deployment of the Phelophepa II train in Gauteng is part of an agreement between Transnet and the Gauteng Department of Health (DoH) to assist with the provision of primary healthcare services, which have been backlogged due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In partnership with the Department of Health, the train will also provide COVID-19 screening and testing.

Gauteng Acting MEC for Health Jacob Mamabolo said, "On behalf of the Gauteng Department of Health, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the facilities that Transnet has donated to us in response to the call for strengthening capacity and efforts towards managing COVID-19 spread."

Mamabolo added that the Transnet initiative is anchored on the strengthening primary healthcare services, and preventative health care practices.

The Phelophepa II train will remain at the Springs station from 31 August 2020 until 11 September 2020. Other areas that the train will visit include Olifantsfontein, a small town between Kempton Park and Pretoria, as well the township of Dube, Soweto. The train will be stationed in Olifantsfontein from 14 September until 25 September 2020, and Dube station from 28 September until 09 October 2020.

As part of its long-standing partnership with Transnet, Roche Pharma South Africa will be providing Personal Protective Equipment (PEE) and sanitisers during the deployment of the train.

General Manager of Roche Pharma South Africa, David Gibbons said, "We are strongly committed to helping to keep the people who work and volunteer on the trains as safe as

possible during this difficult time and we are proud to provide PPE and sanitizing equipment to support their valued work.”

The Phelophepa I train will commence services in Mahikeng in the North West province from 2 September until 11 September 2020. It will also visit Rustenburg from 14 September until 25 September 2020 and move to Klerksdorp station from 28 September until 9 October 2020.

The community in the North West province will be offered the same healthcare services as the Gauteng Province at no cost. However, community members will be charged a nominal fee for medication, complex dental procedures and items such as spectacles.

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