

10 April 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT:

Johannesburg, South Africa - The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front, a campaign led by civil society organisations, welcomes and supports President Ramaphosa's announcement of an extension of the lockdown to curb the spread of the Coronavirus.

"We are fully aware of the devastating effects of the continued lockdown on the lives of the poor, the labour market, business and the economy as a whole, but we strongly believe that the value of human life should supersede all. We call on the National Command Council to consider provision of food, income to informal workers and traders and access to essential services such as water and sanitation to the most vulnerable sections of the South African population", said Thulani Tshefuta, Co-convenor of the Community Constituency Covid-19 Front

The extended duration of the lockdown should be used maximally to deepen education and awareness, expand screening and testing, scale up all efforts to cushion and support the poor. Contact tracing is very important because it is not only about tracking those who are potentially exposed to the virus but its also about ensuring that we can pass on the correct messages around Covid-19. We also need to ensure safety security to our people around their homes during the testing and screening.

Healthcare Workers are also key in the response, we need to make sure that they have precautionary measures all the time.

We salute the willingness, dedication and responsiveness of the South African society in responding to the calls to play their part in flattening the curve of transmissions. We also commend the collective efforts and actions that are being undertaken by various sectors of society to push back the spread of the Coronavirus from civil society, business and labour, as led by government.

We call on all members of our society, individually and collectively, to continue to be inspired by the values of solidarity during this unprecedented period of hardship.

"From our Command Centre, we will lead community mobilisation to ensure public awareness and education is reaching communities at household level and being in the frontline of distributing supplies to communities. Through our campaign, we leveraging the social capital of communities to be the first line of defense in the fight against Covid-19", explained Mabalane Mfundisi, Operations Lead at the Covid-19 Front National Command Centre

Ends

Issued by:

The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front



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About the Community Constituency Covid-19 Front

The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front was established as a formal advisory body to facilitate the participation of civil society sectors and networks, including those represented in the national response and implementations of Community-Based Measures in response to the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19). The Community Constituency Covid-19 Front promotes an inclusive, competent and responsive civil society that effectively serves the needs of communities by linking and diversifying civil society actors, expanding the sector's response and ensuring better coordination, thus improving operations, and enhancing connections between civil society organisations with government, business labour, their stakeholders and beneficiaries.

The Covid-19 Front aims to provide a hub of information and contacts for distribution and engagement through our members across the country.

For more information and queries, please contact:

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**Community
Constituency
Covid-19 Front**
civil society working together to beat the coronavirus



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