

COMMUNITY UPDATE



CEO'S MESSAGE

In the recent months, COVID-19 has touched everyone's lives across the world and has been declared a global health pandemic, by the World Health Organisation. In South Africa, our President took drastic measures and declared a nationwide lockdown from midnight on 26 March, in an attempt to slow down the spread of the virus, so that our hospitals and health workers can be better prepared to deal with the anticipated increase in COVID-19 cases.

At RBPlat, we had to place our operations under care and maintenance for the initial lockdown period, and when the regulations were amended, we were allowed to ramp-up to 50% production. With level 3 of the lockdown, we are now allowed to ramp-up to full capacity (100%). We have restarted our operations under very strict safety protocols to minimise any risk to our employees and our business, and we will continue to work with the relevant authorities to ensure a safe working environment for our employees.

We have also been working with our community leaders, traditional leaders and other local stakeholders to identify projects that will allow us to support our communities that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that we have a shared responsibility with government

and other private sector companies, to combine our resources and support the needy and vulnerable in our communities.

We also need to be supportive of each other, and not stigmatise those infected or affected by COVID-19. We need to show support, care and respect for each other. Even though we have moved to level 3 of the lockdown, which allows for greater movement of people and lesser restrictions, we still have to be responsible, practise good hygiene, wear face masks, and observe social distancing in order to protect ourselves and our families from COVID-19.

Please take this seriously and do not think that it only happens to other people, or that you won't get infected. This virus can infect you too, if you are unsafe and take unnecessary risks with your hygiene. Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect us, so the only thing we can do is to practise good hygiene, build our immunity and prevent the spread of the virus in our communities.

Stay safe!

Steve Phiri, CEO: RBPlat

RBPLAT SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

RBPlat has pledged R3 million to support the economic and social needs of its local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, and has been engaging with local community leaders and other relevant stakeholders to identify projects, as well as the most vulnerable and needy in the community.

Through this investment, we will provide food hampers and hygiene care packs over a three-month period to our needy and vulnerable communities, tablet computers to matric learners and educators from Charora High School, body temperature screening devices for communities, continuous active screening of households for COVID-19 prevalence by our team to support government's screening efforts, and sanitising of taxis that support the transport needs of our employees to and from work.

We have also made provision for a 100-bed self-isolation facility for RBPlat employees that are not able to self-isolate at home due to their living conditions, and have also provided for a 24-bed quarantine facility. We will offer further support to our community members with a treatment site for those that have tested positive for COVID-19, to supplement the already overburdened government resources.

Some of these projects have already been implemented during the past month, and we will continue working with our local community leaders, traditional leaders, as well as related key stakeholders, to ensure that all RBPlat initiatives are successfully implemented.

We have also embarked on an intensive education and awareness campaign for our employees and community members, on measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, as we believe that increased knowledge can improve self-care, and good hygiene is the first line of defence against the virus.

We believe in 'People First' and keeping our people safe is important to us. This means, ensuring a safe and healthy working environment for our employees, in line with the regulations of the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and the Department of Health (DoH), and ensuring that our operations follow strict health and safety protocols of screening, testing and providing all the necessary support to ensure good hygiene whilst at work.

'We recognise that in order to make a real impact in our communities, we have to have a shared responsibility and work together with government and other private sector companies, to support our communities during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic,' said Steve Phiri, CEO, RBPlat.

Delivering on our SLP commitments in 2019

TOTAL SLP EXPENDITURE IN 2019 - R65.8 MILLION

In 2019, through our Social and Labour Plans (SLPs) we contributed to the sustainable development of the communities in which we operate by addressing immediate short-term needs, whilst strongly focussing on the young people of these communities to help them equip themselves for a sustainable future, through education and skills development.

Community infrastructure

- > **FENCING:**
Using a doorstep company to deliver the project, we supplied and installed a 4.1km cattle fence to protect community livestock.
- > **ROADS:**
Engineering work done on the design of Mafenya Road will be completed in 2020, after which we envisage reconstructing and completing the road in phases over a period of five years.
- > **COMMUNITY HOUSING:**
Following consultation with the relevant community structures regarding the identification of needy families, we constructed 18 houses of 80m² each.



Construction work on a community house

Health support

- > Our contribution to health support during 2019 was mainly invested in infrastructure.
- > It included an upgrade to the Chaneng Clinic, which serves our doorstep communities, which included an ablution facility and two consulting rooms. We are also providing security guards at the clinic.
- > In 2013 RBPlat commenced construction of a much needed new forensic pathology facility in the town of Phokeng at a cost of R13.5 million, which today serves the needs of the communities and mines in this area.
- > In addition, we have assisted the Department of Health (DoH) with the tracking of potential tuberculosis (TB) hotspots in the community.

Community skills development

- > **DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY:**
We continued to invest in the training of community members at the RBPlat mining academy. The 26 students enrolled in the academy in April 2019 to train as rock drill operators completed their six-month training in October 2019. Following their graduation, candidates were given permanent employment at RBPlat. A further group of 27 learners were enrolled in the academy in November 2019.

Our enterprise and supplier development strategy is aimed at providing support to local businesses to grow and become sustainable.

Enterprise and supplier development

- > We are pleased to report an 11.8% increase in our procurement from local HDSA businesses in 2019, and were also able to increase our procurement from our doorstep HDSA businesses by 82.6%, following our focus on enterprise and supplier development in our doorstep communities during 2019.
- > Our enterprise and supplier development strategy is aimed at providing support to local businesses to grow and become sustainable. This has included engaging two consulting companies who specialise in business development and funding assistance, establishing the RBPlat Business Hub at which these consultants are based, and providing access to vendor registration and computer and printing facilities. The business forums we established provide doorstep businesses with preferential access to procurement opportunities at our operations and our strategy includes setting aside certain procurement opportunities for our doorstep communities.

Our contribution to health support during 2019 was mainly invested in infrastructure.

Education support

> TEACHER DEVELOPMENT:

We invested in the Thutho Thebe Educational Trust founded by the Queen Mother of the Royal Bafokeng Nation to improve education standards in the community. The Trust focuses on teacher development, providing educational resources and materials for schools, and strengthening school management structures and school governing bodies, and training parents to provide guidance on their children's schoolwork.

> RBPLAT EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME:

We also supported this special project managed by the Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI), which focuses on early childhood development, schools' programmes, post-school programmes and teacher development.

> EDUCATION SUPPORT AT CHARORA HIGH SCHOOL:

Both the maths and science classrooms were renovated and provided with updated equipment. We also funded the salaries of two additional experienced maths teachers and one additional science teacher. In 2019, the number of science teachers was increased to two. This project has steadily improved the quality of the maths and science results, as well as the overall quality of learner performance.

- 105% increase in the number of learners writing maths for matric since the programme started in 2013
- 111% increase in the number of learners writing science for matric since the programme started in 2013

> ENCOURAGING MATHS LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Between 2015 and 2019 RBPlat has sponsored a Maths Olympiad run by our education partner, the RBI. Of the four MACHARORA Primary schools which took part in the competition, Rasimone Primary School was the best performer in 2019.

> SCHOLARSHIPS TO KITSONG HIGH SCHOOL:

We offered scholarships to five learners from our doorstep communities going into Grade 8 at Kitsong High School in 2019, and have provided another five learners from our doorstep communities with scholarships in 2020.



The Grade R classroom RBPlat constructed at Mafenya Primary School

Poverty alleviation and job creation

> ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS:

To assist the local subsistence farmers affected by the drought in the region, RBPlat developed a database of the livestock, installed a spray race system and sprayed, tagged and treated the animals. We also repaired the existing dam, built a new dam and installed a windmill and a borehole. We continue to support the farmers through the livestock feeding programme we introduced in 2014, which in line with commercial farming methodologies provides feed during the dry months when grazing runs out.



Community members receiving training at the Buhle Farming Academy

> TRAINING COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BECOME SUSTAINABLE FARMERS:

This programme included providing training in chicken farming for 16 community members from our doorstep communities at the Buhle Farming Academy (www.buhle.org.za) in Delmas, Mpumalanga. This group comprised of 10 women and six men, ranging in age from 21 to 62. Once they completed their training, each person was provided with a starter pack of 40 baby chickens and feed for the chickens for three months.

**TOTAL SLP EXPENDITURE IN
2019 - R65.8 MILLION**

CADETSHIP PROJECT LAUNCHED

BRPM NORTH SHAFT TRAINING CENTRE LAUNCHES ITS CADETSHIP PROJECT



In 2019, BRPM North Shaft Training Centre embarked on a journey to develop its first fully managed cadetship project, aimed at training unemployed youth from our doorstep communities and equipping them with mining accredited and practical skills, for employment within RBPlat, contractor companies, or the industry at large.

BRPM North Shaft Training Centre has always been a firm supporter of youth training programmes and have hosted, as well as provided extensive support, to similar programmes for its contractor companies during the past five years, with a total of 160 cadets completing the training to date.

In 2019, the cadetship project had a greater intake of female candidates of which, 55.6% were employed by BRPM and its contractors, further supporting our efforts to improve the number of women in mining. In addition, the Rock Drill Operator (RDO) programme had 10 females out of the 27 participants.

Although the cadetship project is facilitated and managed by BRPM Human Resources Development (HRD) at the North Shaft Training Centre, this project is a joint initiative that relies on the teamwork and support of all stakeholders, including the Mining Qualification Authority (MQA), the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), mine management, contractor companies, community leadership, parents, Protection Services, BRPM Medical Clinic, the Safety Department and the Human Resources Department.

The cadetship project consists of three skills programmes over a six-month period, namely:

1. Competent B involves the installing, removing and maintaining of the support units in an underground work environment
2. Blasting Assistant involves the timing of a blast round with shock tubes
3. Rock Drill Operator (RDO) involves drilling holes in an underground workplace with a hand-held machine.

All the programmes are facilitated in complete contact sessions underground, which allows the learners to gain practical exposure and hands-on training. There are however two Unit Standards in the skills programme curriculum, which require surface and underground exposure, and these include:

- > Unit Standard in Blasting Assistant (MnH G716) demonstrates the timing of a blast round with shock tubes which is trained in both underground and surface mock-up, for practical training and for live blasts
- > Unit Standard in Competent B demonstrates an understanding of the identification of and dealing with rock strata conditions. The training occurs in both a classroom for the theory, and practical training and assessments occur underground.

Benefits to the learners

- > A recognised MQA qualification upon completion of all the skills programmes
- > The Mining Qualification Authority (MQA) generates the statement of results and certificates, which the mine presents to the cadets
- > The learners have eight weeks of shadowing 'to match fitness' or exposure in the actual production environment, where they go underground and come out with the shift, although still under the direct supervision of the HRD personnel.
- > During this process, they network and continue learning different leadership and management skills, of both training and production
- > Learners gain mining knowledge, communication skills, discipline, understand teamwork dynamics and learn comprehension skills, which form part of their training and assessment, in order to determine the competency of each Unit Standard and the qualification.
- > The learners enter a six-month contract and receive a stipend for the duration, to help improve their quality of life, whilst undergoing the training.

As with any new programme, learners also experienced some challenges, which resulted in different start dates, which complicated the completion schedule and created pressure on the resources and systems dedicated to the project.

Daniel Machai, HRD Officer and leader of the cadetship project expressed his satisfaction at seeing the successful conclusion of the six-month cadetship project. 'I had my initial reservations when I was told that they were RDO cadets, as previously many of them did not want to use the hand-held drilling machines, especially the females, but this group certainly proved me wrong. I felt truly honoured when the MQA verification team called this RDO cadet project a 'success story', and was pleased to have played a part and made a positive difference in the lives of these young people,' said Daniel.

The BRPM North Shaft Training Centre is currently in the process of developing this project into a Mining Academy, which will serve as a platform for candidates with potential to progress further, and obtain a Level 2 National Certificate in Mining.

This project will also be evaluated in line with skills requirements in the industry and the organisational skills needs. This will include matching the intake of learners in certain skills programmes, with the growing

need of those particular skills within areas of operations, and making it compulsory for all learners to undergo all skills programmes in the project to ensure multi-skilling and maximum exposure, thus providing the organisation and the learners with greater access to diverse opportunities.

BRPM North Shaft Training Centre envisages this project as not only equipping unemployed youth with mining skills and training, but as a continuous contributor to social and economic development in the community, as well as reducing youth unemployment. It is also seen as a platform to develop future leaders who will contribute specialised skills, solutions, enhanced knowledge, and innovative developments to the mining industry.

Obed Ditau, HRD Facilitator at North Shaft Training Centre said, 'It has been one of my greatest experiences to work with our cadetship project learners. They are by far the greatest team of learners I have worked with, as they always listened attentively and executed their tasks diligently. I am impressed by their teamwork and determination to complete their tasks, which proves that 'together we can stand strong and apart we fall behind'.'

Success stories from the learners

DIMAKATSO MAIEELE, CHANENG VILLAGE

'My journey began with BRPM as an RDO cadet from October 2019 to March 2020. On my first day at the training centre, I received a warm welcome from the facilitators and was encouraged and eager to learn more, as the relationship between us and the facilitator was positive and motivating.

Growing up, I thought that mining was meant for men and pursuing this cadetship challenged me. After a couple of sessions, I realised that women can also pursue careers in mining because of the high safety standards in the mining environment.

I must admit that the role of an RDO is challenging and not easy. The very first few times that I went underground was scary, and the drilling equipment was quite heavy to pick up. Also, the sound of the machines can affect your hearing, thus you always have to wear earplugs when working underground. Six months later, I am happy to see myself at another level and have enjoyed all the learning sessions.'



SOPHIE PHETOE, MOTSEMOGOLO SECTION, ROBEGA VILLAGE

'As a child growing up in a village, I thought success comes only from a formal education, hence I dreamt of graduating and looking for a job to help sustain me and my family. After joining BRPM and this amazing cadetship group on 1 November 2019, I was happy and everything changed. I am the youngest in the group and I surprised my instructors, my friends, and my family by training to be an RDO, which is a rare path for females to pursue in mining.

The cadetship has changed my life. My dreams are now bigger and more exciting. Currently, I can assist my family financially, because BRPM also provides us with a monthly stipend. I believe that when success knocks at your door, you must always remember where you come from. To all the young people out there, if you get an opportunity like this, grab it and use it as a step to climb higher and achieve more.'



STEPHEN TEBOGO LEWISA, CHANENG VILLAGE

'God has a reason for allowing things to happen. We may never understand His wisdom, but we simply must trust His will, and be happy with what we have while we are working for what we want.

I would like to thank the MQA, BRPM and the North Shaft Training Centre for developing and managing this project. It has truly given us hope and provided us with a platform to learn more, as well as gain valuable exposure to mining. I would also like to congratulate all my team members for completing this project with me.'



KETLOGILE MAPANGELA, BATHOPELE SECTION, ROBEGA VILLAGE

'One of the greatest highlights of the cadetship programme was meeting all my crew members, building friendships, and enduring the journey with people who share similar aspirations and goals. They have all truly displayed teamwork, respect, humility and tenacity, throughout all the challenges we came across.'





Delivering on our Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

While the nationwide lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has had a significant impact on RBPlat's ability to operate fully during the past three months, we have still endeavoured to support our local entrepreneurs through our Enterprise and Supplier Development programme.

RBPlat, through its implementation partner, Thekvest, has continued to provide business development support to MACHARORA based companies by transferring all face to face interactions to telephonic and online platforms like WhatsApp, emails and MS Teams.

Despite the difficult circumstances, the team was able to make reasonable progress in the dispensing of Set Asides. With 'More than Mining' underpinning the company's ethos, RBPlat believes that community support is imperative, especially during this time of economic and social need, and has thus identified various opportunities that have been Set Aside exclusively for local companies.

Although some opportunities have been dispensed with in the past few months, we are fully committed to accelerating dispensing in line with our targets, and believe in keeping our community informed on the Set Aside progress, to ensure a transparent, fair and inclusive process.

Much work still needs to be done to achieve our 2020 objectives in dispensing these opportunities, however we remain committed to accelerating this initiative and delivering on our agreed upon objectives.

Based on the outcomes of the initial round of Business Maturity Assessments, programmes were designed to support MACHARORA businesses and prepare them adequately for doing business with the mine and beyond. A comprehensive process was undertaken to recruit participants onto the Emerge and Compass Programmes:

- > Invitations were sent to the entire RBPlat doorstep database
- > Six briefing sessions were held, in which 97 companies participated
- > 119 applications were submitted via various platforms (online, email, SMS, Enterprise and Supplier Development Centre)
- > 60 successful businesses were selected to participate in the first intake of the Emerge and Compass Programmes.

Training for the first intake was scheduled to commence in early May, however due to the lockdown, face to face delivery was no longer possible, and the team had to quickly adapt and transition the delivery of programmes from face to face to online.

The second batch of Business Maturity Assessments have been approved for implementation, for companies that have been part of the Innoven process.

Considering the substantial impact that the site visits have on the credibility of the assessments, the team has also restructured its approach to cover as much of the work as possible online, and delay the site visits. The site visits will now be conducted in line with the mine's COVID-19 policies and strict measures will be followed to ensure the safety of all participants. The health and safety process will be communicated in advance to all companies to be assessed, and the team will ensure that all the necessary precautions are taken before entering the business premises.

The Enterprise and Supplier Development team has continued to provide ad-hoc coaching support to the doorstep companies using online platforms. RBPlat and Thekvest remain committed to supporting the MACHARORA businesses with access to opportunities and business development support, even during these unprecedented times.

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RBPLAT DONATES FOOD HAMPERS AND HYGIENE CARE PACKS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

As part of its support for local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, RBPlat recently donated 1 000 food hampers and 2 500 hygiene care packs to its needy and vulnerable doorstep communities during May, and will be continuing this support for a further two months.



Collin Alexander (RBPlat) engaging with an elderly community member during the food hamper distribution

This project focusses on communities in need, with the food hampers aimed at alleviating hunger, and the hygiene care packs to promote good hygiene. During the distribution we were also able to screen community members to track the prevalence of the virus, through the deployment of screening teams in the community.

Working with our community leadership, Social Workers and the Department of Social Development, recipients were identified from disadvantaged families, the elderly, child-headed families and disabled persons from across our doorstep and surrounding communities.

Collin Alexander, Head of Human Resources and Stakeholder Relations for RBPlat emphasised that, 'Communities are a vital partner of our business and we are committed to assisting them to ensure their well-being during this time of need. We are also grateful to the community leadership and our various stakeholders, including our suppliers and contractors, who partnered with us to deliver on this initiative.'

The distribution commenced on 7 May, with RBPlat delivery trucks making their way to the MACHARORA communities in Rasimone, Mafenya, Chaneng and Robega villages, for the delivery of the first food hampers and hygiene care packs to the elderly who manage their own households.

This process also included screening of the families by the RBPlat screening field teams, and all the results were recorded and sent to the Department of Health for COVID-19 tracking. The teams observed strict hygiene measures, which included wearing masks, sanitising their hands and social distancing during the screening and distribution.

'It was wonderful to see the joy and warmth with which we were received. For RBPlat this engagement is reflective of our support and partnership with our communities, and is in line with our aspiration of *'More than Mining'*, said Collin.

Dikgosana of all MACHARORA villages were present at the initial briefing to launch the initiative, and speaking on behalf of the MACHARORA community, Kgosana Mtande from Robega village said, 'I compliment the mine for all its interventions in helping our communities during this pandemic, and this is truly more than mining. We would also like to further commend the relationship the mine has with us as communities, and this is proof that unity is power, *kopano ke matla*. I also want to confirm that mine management engaged with us as community leadership on their plans to reopen the mine, and we were able to enquire about the risks that this will bear for employees and community members. We asked questions on their processes to align the reopening with the government regulations and received all the necessary details of the procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of workers. We are also very pleased with the community interventions in place.'

Mr Michael Mlungu, Rustenburg Local Municipality representative, encouraged RBPlat to continue doing good for the community and commended the company for effectively responding to the challenges posed by COVID-19 in the MACHARORA communities.

Kgosana Rapetsaenae, Head of Governance at the Royal Bafokeng Administration, indicated that he regards 'RBPlat as a good neighbour, that is always involved in community development and listens to the needs of the community. We all pray to God to help us in fighting against this virus.'

Colonel Moagi, Station Commander from the Phokeng South African Police Services emphasised that preventative measures are better than waiting for a cure. 'We are impressed that the mine is distributing the food parcels door to door, which discourages the unnecessary movement and gathering of people. Our role is to provide support, ensure social distancing and wearing of masks, and that there are no illegal gatherings. We encourage the mine and community leadership to use alternative platforms rather than gatherings, to further educate people on COVID-19, and to encourage compliance with all government regulations.'

- > On 15 May, food hampers and hygiene care packs were delivered to five Boshhoek Farms communities. The focus was on unemployed families, child-headed families and families who are not registered for any form of government grant or assistance. The distribution was conducted by a team from RBPlat together with Ward Committee Members from the Boshhoek areas, led by Ward Councillor Dimakatso Malla.
- > On 27 May, food hampers and hygiene care packs were delivered to child-headed families, orphans and vulnerable children who take care of themselves and their siblings, without guardians or parental guidance. This group also included disabled persons community, who also manage their own households and rely on available assistance to go about their day-to-day life.
- > On 4 June, food hampers and hygiene care packs were delivered to the needy across various sections of Phatsima village.



Food hampers ready for distribution

TABLET COMPUTERS FOR LEARNERS AT CHARORA HIGH SCHOOL



RBPlat recently donated 67 tablet computers to Grade 12 learners and educators from Charora High School, to assist learners with online learning during the national lockdown, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2010, RBPlat has been supporting the Maths and Science programme at Charora High School to help improve the performance of Grade 12 learners in these two subjects, and has seen good progress over the years. It is hoped that these tablet computers are seen as a long-term investment in the education of learners at the school, and will offer further support in these subjects, as well as allow the educators to continue to facilitate teaching and online assessments, provide assistance to learners, as well as monitor their progress.

This initiative was also an important partnership between RBPlat, Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI) and Charora High School, where RBI is the project custodian and also supports the school with the implementation. RBPlat not only provided the tablet computers, but will also provide data to the learners for the next six months.

Speaking at the distribution of the tablet computers, Collin Alexander, Head of Human Resources and Stakeholder Relations at RBPlat said,

‘Education is always seen as a priority to RBPlat and is a key tenet of our community development programme. We believe that through this initiative, we can further support our Grade 12 learners and allow them to continue with their studies online, even while at home. We are hoping that they can complete their curriculum and excel in their Grade 12 final examinations. We also acknowledge the leadership, hard work and commitment of the teachers, the Principal and the School Governing Body of Charora High School.’

The tablet computers were pre-installed with an educational application called Kitsong Moodle Learning Management System, which was developed by the Kitsong Academic Institution and contains educational programmes and assessments for Grade 12 curriculum subjects. Five teachers from Charora High School were also trained in the use of the learning management system, so that they could support the learners through their learning if they experience problems.

In addition, six tablet computers were provided to the top Grade 11 learners who have excelled in Maths and Science, to also support them with their studies and to equip them with knowledge to

become team leaders at the school, so that at a later stage, they could facilitate Maths and Science study groups amongst their peers, during the remainder of their schooling.

The tablet computers were delivered to learners and parents by RBPlat and RBI representatives at their homes across the Rasimone, Mafenyha, Robega and Chaneng villages and were received with much excitement and appreciation. This donation is a long-term investment to the school, as the tablet computers are on loan to the learners, and at the end of this academic year, they will be returned to the school and will be used by the next group of Grade 12 learners in 2021.

Mrs Mutle, Principal at Charora High School expressed her gratitude with the investment in the school and its learners and said, ‘The learners have been committed to producing good results since the beginning of the year, and the school is determined to ensuring that even through this pandemic, its learners continue to excel in Maths and Science, and obtain good marks to allow them to access bursaries and gain admission to science or technical courses at universities.’ The teachers at the school also expressed their gratitude with the online learning tool to assist the learners to catch up with the curriculum, as well as provide them with access to information in preparation for their final examinations.

‘Education is always seen as a priority to RBPlat and is a key tenet of our community development programme.’



Support was also received from Mr Khunou of the Royal Bafokeng Institute who said, ‘Supporting schools is the responsibility of the entire community, and RBPlat has continuously provided excellent leadership and support in developing our schools and learners. We thank RBPlat for all their initiatives at our schools to date, as well as the provision of these tablet computers to support online learning. You have provided our learners with an opportunity to prevail against the challenges of COVID-19.’

Tshepo Mabule, Councillor at Royal Bafokeng Administration, also expressed his satisfaction with this initiative and said, ‘Thuto ke lesedi - as education is a pillar of the community, all learners should be encouraged to appropriately utilise these tablet computers to reach their academic goals and accomplish their studies.’



Kgosana Diale from Rasimone-Mafenya, representing the MACHARORA leadership, also acknowledged the great relationship that exists between Charora High School,

the community and RBPlat, and extended his gratitude to the mine for continuously supporting the school through the years, and ensuring that all of its needs are met.



COVID-19 COMMUNITY SCREENING

At Royal Bafokeng Platinum, containing the spread of COVID-19 in our communities is important to us - this is why we have assisted our communities with temperature screening scanners, as well as are conducting active community screening to support government’s COVID-19 prevalence tracking. We have deployed trained field teams to conduct daily door to door screening in the MACHARORA villages. This process involves body temperature screening, completing a COVID-19 screening questionnaire and sharing good hygiene practice information. Details of each person screened, per household, is uploaded onto an application that is utilised by the Department of Health for tracing and tracking.



QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION FACILITIES FOR EMPLOYEES AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

At Royal Bafokeng Platinum, we understand that not everyone can self-quarantine in their homes - this is why we have supplemented the already overburdened government resources, and sourced our own isolation and quarantine facilities for both our employees and community members, who may be suspected of being infected with COVID-19.



KEEPING OUR EMPLOYEES SAFE

At Royal Bafokeng Platinum, we care about our employees, and their health and safety - this is why we are taking extra precautions to keep our employees safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. Our health and safety protocols include screening, testing and providing all the necessary support to ensure good hygiene whilst at work, and also providing sanitising spray for taxis transporting our employees to work, to prevent any risk to their families and our communities.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS



SYMPTOMS



The most common symptoms are:

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Dry cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Some people may also have aches and pains, a blocked or runny nose, a sore throat or diarrhoea.

CAUSES



The virus is infectious and spreads from people who are infected to others through:

- The air, by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

WHO IS AT RISK?



Anyone who comes into contact with the virus can get it, BUT older people and those with underlying medical conditions like high blood pressure, heart problems, low immunity or diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO



If you think you may have the virus and display symptoms of fever, cough and difficulty breathing, you should:

- Speak to your healthcare practitioner
- Share your recent travel history
- Avoid travel
- Avoid contact with others, especially large groups
- Notify your employer.



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- The best way to protect yourself is to regularly wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough
- Avoid close contact with other people if you are coughing or have a fever
- Cover your mouth and nose with your elbow or tissue, when you cough or sneeze and throw the used tissue into a bin
- Only eat well-cooked food, especially meat and eggs
- Never spit in public
- Don't touch your face, mouth, nose or eyes without washing your hands
- Know your HIV status and continue with your ARV and TB treatment.

WEARING A FACE MASK

HOW TO WEAR A FACE MASK

- Before putting on a face mask, ensure that you wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water
- The mask must cover your mouth and nose and make sure there are no gaps between the mask and your face
- Avoid touching the mask whilst wearing it
- Replace the mask as soon as it is damp and do not re-use single use disposable masks
- To remove the mask - remove it from behind (do not touch the front of the mask) and discard immediately in a closed bin or a washing bucket. Clean your hands again with soap and water.



WHEN USING A FACE MASK

- Always wear a face mask when you are out in public places, as the face mask, when combined with good hygiene, can protect you from contracting the virus and also prevent you from spreading any germs
- All face masks should:
 - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - Be secured with ties or ear loops
 - Include multiple layers of fabric
 - Allow for breathing without restriction
 - Can be washed and dried without damage or change to its shape.

WASHING A FACE MASK

- Fabric face masks should be washed regularly depending on the frequency of use
- Use a washing machine or hand-wash the face mask, using warm water and detergent.

GOOD HYGIENE AT HOME



CLEANING AROUND THE HOME

- Clean surfaces regularly to lower the risk of infection
- Ensure good ventilation in your home - open all doors and windows and allow air to circulate
- Clean common high-touch surfaces such as door handles, tables, chairs, handrails, kitchen and bathroom surfaces, taps, toilets, light switches, mobile phones, computers, keyboards, remote controls, game controllers and favourite toys
- Remove your shoes when you enter your home
- Change into clean clothes when you return home after being in a crowded place, and wash your hands with soap and water immediately afterwards
- Clean your cell phone, car keys or house keys, wallets, purses and bank cards. Wipe all items with a soft clean cloth soaked in disinfectant and then wipe dry
- Wash bed sheets, towels and clothes regularly
- Wash clothes with soap or detergent, using the warmest water and dry items properly.

FOOD HANDLING AND FOOD HYGIENE PRECAUTIONS

- Remove any unnecessary packaging and throw into a waste bin with a lid
- Remove food from take-out containers, place on a clean plate and throw away the container into a bin
- Packaging like cans can be wiped clean with a disinfectant before being opened or stored
- Wash fruit and vegetables thoroughly under running water
- Wash your hands thoroughly before preparing any food
- Cook food to the recommended temperature
- Always use clean utensils and plates.



WHEN USING A BUS OR TAXI



- Sanitize your hands before entering a bus or taxi
- Always have one empty seat between you and the next passenger
- Maintain social distancing and avoid physical contact with other passengers
- Wear your mask whilst travelling and do not touch your face, eyes, nose or mouth
- Buses and taxis must be sanitized and wiped down after each load of passengers
- Avoid touching doors, handrails or windows in a bus or taxi.

PREVENT THE SOCIAL STIGMA OF COVID-19

- The current COVID-19 outbreak has caused social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people, who are tested positive and who may have been in contact with the virus
- Confusion, anxiety, and fear often fuels these harmful stereotypes
- Avoid labels, stereotyping, discrimination against, and treating people linked with the virus differently, as this can negatively affect those with the disease, as well as their family, friends and communities.

WHY IS COVID-19 CAUSING SO MUCH STIGMA?

- It is a disease that's new and for which there are still many unknowns
- We are often afraid of the unknown
- It is easy to associate that fear with 'others'.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Know the facts and share them with others in your community
- Encourage people to seek help from a Clinic or healthcare professional if they are unwell or display symptoms
- Offer support to those infected, especially once they have recovered and are back at work
- Show empathy with those affected
- Practise good hygiene and safety measures to keep you and your family safe.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF STIGMA?

- It can drive people to hide the illness to avoid discrimination
- Prevents people from seeking health care immediately
- Discourages them from adopting healthy behaviours.