



# Oranjemund Town Council

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## Special Update

**by His Worship, Cllr. Henry Coetzee, the Mayor of Oranjemund  
on the progress made regarding Oranjemund community response to COVID-19.**

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**Date: Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**Time: 10h00, OFM local radio station**

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**Dear Residents of Oranjemund and all stakeholders,**

Good Morning,

Dear Residents,

Four days ago, I spoke directly to the residents of our beautiful town of Oranjemund through this radio, and my message then focuses on precautionary measures that were introduced by the Council on how best we can curb the spread of Covid 19 in town as directed by Council during its Special Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020. At this meeting, Council further directed that a Response Team for Oranjemund on Covid 19 be established to come up with a



implementation Plan on how to respond to the spread of the pandemic in our community and it must be supported by all key stakeholders.

Today, I am here to report back that Respond Team for Oranjemund has been established, functional and a lot of progresses have been made thus far. The local Respond Team on Covid-19 for Oranjemund is consisting of the community members, OMD 2030, businesses, OTC, and Namdeb. The first meeting was held between OTC and Namdeb last Thursday to iron out critical issues, followed by second meeting, Yesterday, Friday, 27<sup>th</sup>, which was convened by OMD 2030. More community engagements, sharing of messages and provide awareness are to be rolled through out the town in the next few days on how collectively as a community will tackle the pandemic.

Furthermore, both of the above meetings agreed on the education of our community about the virus and the consequences it presents socially and economically to our country and indeed to Oranjemund. The communication Team, which now consist of OTC, Namdeb and OMD 2030 was then tasked to use all medium of communications in order to effect the message about the virus to the community.

In addition, I am happy to report that progress has also been made regarding the screening test at Swarkop Gate for all people entering Oranjemund and it will be manned with the support of Nampol Oranjemund, volunteers as well as the involvement of the Public Health Clinic and Namdeb Hospital for 24 hours.

In line with State of emergency calls, law enforcement has been directed to enforce all precautionary measures, I thank the station Commander, team for this support and for ensuring that all other



precautionary measures are enforced in our town in order to collectively curb the spread of the virus.

I therefore appeal to the community of Oranjemund to support these initiatives that aims to curb the spread of the pandemic, and I must state here that the boom gate that has been erected at the town's entrance -Swartkops is not meant to be used to control the access to town with permits but to do screening of the pandemic on individuals entering Oranjemund. Please support this initiative; it's for the good of the town and its residents, businesses.

However, I must also indicate that Council is keenly monitoring new developments regarding the pandemic and possibility is there to activate the total lock down of Oranjemund. Announcement to this effect will be made at an appropriate time in a few days to come. Please note all these measures are being introduced to protect the people, businesses, and indeed the town of Oranjemund and its heritages.

I am happy to report that progress has also been made regarding the readiness on the isolation centres in and around Oranjemund so that should individuals need to be isolated for 14 days as prescribed because of the virus, these centres are fully operational. These centres will cater for the residents, for Deb Marine employees returning to work through Oranjemund, as well as Namdeb Mining operation at Dabaras Mine.



In addition to address congestion, especially at shopping centers in town, discussions are at advanced stage to equally enforce precautionary measures during our shopping time with the support of the local police law enforcement. The current shopping congestion at atmosphere at most shopping centers in our town need to be in line with the set standard of 1, 5 m apart from each other in combating the spread of the virus.

All of us must really support initiatives that have been created by our local Response Team on Covid 19 including those measures that have been introduced by shop owners so that we avoid any outbreak of Covid -19 virus in our town.

Equally, the Oranjemund Town Council will lead by example by limiting the social contact between its clients and the Council staff in providing services especially regarding counter inquiries. As from Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March, counter inquiries in terms services such as payments for services, Council is encouraging our residents to it via EFT, direct deposit payments and account inquiries should be done via email, or telephone call so that we limit social contacts as being prescribed. All this information has already been communicated to the public and will continue to make them available for easy reference.

Furthermore, the community are hereby also informed that as from the same Monday, the public will have limited access to enter Council offices and most of the staff will be working remotely. Only a few staff will be handling inquiries via the reception, cashier hall, and please use the following email: [reception@ormdtc.com.na](mailto:reception@ormdtc.com.na) for email inquiries or call numbers that was provided in the public notice for any other services.



All municipal services will be operational and all staff members dealing with emergency services are equipped with telephone devices including two-way communication radio for effective response to any service delivery calls.

In conclusion, I do understand that there is panic about the virus not only in Oranjemund but the entire nation, but I would like to appeal to our residents to remain calm and follow precautionary measures presented including lock downs and avoid over crowded environment and stay home. As a community, we need to work together, support each other, share best strategies on the combating of the spread of the virus and be able to be our brothers/Sisters Keeper when needed especially the destitute in our community. I would like to assure that we are doing all we can to ensure that the spread of the virus in our community remains out of our town, even it means locking down the town of Oranjemund from any visitors during this time.

I thank you,