



SENQU
MUNICIPALITY

SENQU

MUNICIPALITY

UPDATE

QUARTER 1

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021

Newsletter



In this issue...

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SENQU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

PPE DISTRIBUTION TO WASTE-PICKERS IN SENQU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

DISCOVERING THE LOST WORLD OF DINOSAURS

100

95

75

25

5

0



SENQU
MUNICIPALITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 Mayor's forward

3 - 4 Infrastructure development within
Senqu Local Municipality

5 PPE distribution to waste-pickers
in Senqu Local Municipality

6 Amended 2021 Elections Timetable

7 - 8 Discovering the Lost World of Dinosaurs

9 BEEI Applications now open

10 New optional booking service for
your vaccination appointment

Vision 2021

*"A unified, people-centred,
developmental and vibrant municipality"*

Mission

In the pursuit of achieving its vision, Senqu Municipality will strive to:

- Promote a culture of good governance,
- Promote a culture of performance excellence,
- Develop and maintain appropriate and economical infrastructure,
- Develop and retain human capital,
- Adopt a zero-tolerance approach to corruption,
- Promote an environment conducive to the stimulation of economic development,
- Implement appropriate financial management systems to ensure the continued growth and viability of the Municipality,
- Ensure regular and scheduled public interaction with communities to enhance accountability and people-centred planning,
- Provide basic service delivery needs to communities in an equitable manner,
- Encourage the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment.



SENQU

MUNICIPALITY

Mayors Forward

Dear Residents, it is with pride that I welcome you to the last publication of Senqu Update under the current council. The Senqu Update's primary purpose is to interact with our stakeholders and it is a platform where some of the municipal service delivery milestones are showcased.

This publication comes when we are a month away from casting our votes as communities. When this council was elected in 2016, we found that there had already been three years of clean audit. I am proud to acknowledge that, as an outgoing council, we have consistently contributed in the maintenance of clean audit. In our efforts to deliver services over the past 5 years, we have tarred 23 kilometres of roads and re-gravelled 14 kilometres in different wards of the municipality.

The municipality has managed to build cemeteries in villages, thus allowing villagers to bury their loved ones without having to travel long distances to central cemeteries in town.

A total number of 1 803 RDP houses (including houses for the destitute) have been build and handed over to beneficiaries.

The municipality, together with Eskom, has managed to electrify 38 492 households within the Senqu municipal area.

Our term as a council has been disrupted by the unprecedented results of the Covid-19 pandemic, which have affected work on the ground and the spending of the allocated Municipal infrastructure

grant. However, we have soldiered on amid the disruptions.

The statistics with regard to gender-based violence continue to surge in the Senqu area. This sickening pattern is another pandemic which needs serious attention in the hope that everybody who knows about these atrocities finds courage to report and talk about these acts. Gender-Based Violence is a violation of human rights which leads to various serious injuries inflicted by the violence. As a women's caucus, we have held engagements and prayer session where we have encouraged and have given moral support to the affected. I plea with everyone to love and protect one another; together we can do this!

The country is currently on Lockdown Level 1. Residents are encouraged to get vaccinated as the people who are vaccinated are far less likely to die of the disease. They can still be infected and pass on the virus to others and therefore, it remains important to wear a mask, keep a safe social distance, wash hands with soap or an alcohol-based sanitizer and open windows for fresh air.

This year, the local government will mark the 21st anniversary of the establishment of a local government system in our country. Citizens aged 18 years and over are eligible to vote. I should like thank all citizens who have registered so that they will be able to vote. We should be mindful of the fact, that this is our responsibility and an important part of democracy because by voting, citizens are participating in the democratic process. We are all looking forward to voting on 1 November.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SENQU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Senqu Local Municipality (SLM) is performing the different Municipal Services that are based on the Devolution of Powers and Functions as contained in Municipal Structures Act, Act 117 of 1998.

Chapter 7 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa i.e. Act 108 of 1996 deals with the matters which relate to Local Government. The key Section in this Chapter is 152 which talks about the Objectives of Local Government. Subsection 152(1) lists them as follows:

- (a) to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
- (b) to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- (c) to promote social and local economic development;
- (d) to promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- (e) to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

This article will mainly focus on objective (b) as stated above. It should, however, be noted that all of these objectives are integrated in their own way, especially the local economic development component.

Provision of services in a sustainable manner is a multi-facet exercise. In this instance, this will be aligned to the provision of road service infrastructure project at Ward 2.

Ward 2 consists of the following villages: Storomo, Ndingishe, Makalakaleng, Mzimtsha, Palmietfontein, Gcina, and Qhimira. During the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process, this Ward identified as its priority a need to construct a gravel access road to ensure that driving conditions are conducive to safety. Upon technical assessment, it was established that the needed road spans a length of 7,01 kilometres. The villages which are to benefit through these developments are Mzimtsha, Palmietfontein and Storomo.

Once this assessment was done, the scope of work was developed. It included the following indicators:

- (i) Gravelled layers for a total length of 7,01 kilometres with the final one being cement-stabilised to ensure sustenance and durability
- (ii) Road infrastructure which included:
 - Open concrete stormwater drainage
 - Compacted earth drainage
 - Flat-sloped concrete ditches and
 - Signage.

The Service Providers, being the Consultant and Contractor were appointed through the Municipal's Supply Chain Management Processes, which promote Section 217(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996. After this process, the project's details were formulated as follows:

Name of the Project: Ward 2 Road Project

Name of the Consultant: Nemorango Consulting Engineers

Name of the Contractor: Lulumzi Development

Project Appointed amount: R 7 265 192,85

Project Start date: 7 December 2020

Project End date: 30 July 2021

Thirty percent (30%) of the project cost, which amounted to R 2 179 557,86, benefited local communities in the form of engaging two local Small Micro Medium Enterprises (SMMEs) through competitive bidding, local employment and other complementary services that were locally procured. A total of eighteen local people were employed - of these, twelve were directly employed by the Contractor and six were employed by the SMMEs.

In order to ensure that the benefiting Communities provide oversight for this project, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) was established to ensure that community-related matters are attended to correctly. A Community Liaising Officer (CLO) was appointed and he acted as a conduit between the Contractor and the Project Steering Committee and, most importantly, the workers on these projects. This project was practically completed on the 31 July 2020. After that, a snag list (minor items that need to be corrected) was developed and this was attended to and completed on the 30 August 2021.



Figure 1: Before construction



Figure 2: Before construction



Figure 3: During construction

The workmanship of the projects is per the specifications and the quality of the road is good. The community members are, therefore, urged to ensure that this road is taken care of and are discouraged from excavating certain sections as this will cause significant damage.

Once a project of this nature is completed, there is a "retention period". This is a period in which any defects on this road will be remedied by the Contractor. The retention period for this project is for a period of six months and ends on the 29 February 2022. Five percent of the project value has been retained by the Municipality for this period. In case the Contractor does not remedy the reported defects, the Municipality will use the retained money and this will not be paid to the Contractor.

This project has indeed brought significant change to the communities of the stated villages. The Municipality will ensure that after the retention period, consistent maintenance is carried out to ensure that its current condition is sustained.

Item prepared by: Technical Services Directorate



Figure 4: During construction



Figure 5: During construction



Figure 6: Project sign board



Figure 7: @ Practical completion



Figure 8: @ Practical completion

PPE DISTRIBUTION TO WASTE-PICKERS IN SENQU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Waste management workers are exposed to hazards every day as they stick their hands into piles of garbage, trash and junk. It is important for these workers to make use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). PPE is specialized clothing and barrier products used by workers to protect them from the hazards or disease that may arise from their working environment. During this time, when the country is fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, the need to use PPE within the workplace is critical to

ensure staff is protected from bacteria, poor hygiene and chemical substances which could lead to injury or serious infections.

Senqu Local Municipality distributed PPE on 13 of July 2021 to waste-pickers and those that are affiliated to the Sterkspruit Recycling and Sinalo Recycling Associations. All 21 waste-pickers registered on the Departmental database were provided with the PPE.



On the left hand picture councillor Mrhaji (Senqu Community Service) and in the middle Local Government Support official (Mveeli Mgevu) far is Mr Thozamile Babani DEFF

Hand-over of PPE to
LADY GREY WASTE-PICKERS

PPE DISTRIBUTION Sterkspruit
Waste-pickers



Sterkspruit Waste-pickers as they are addressed by Councillor Mrhaji



Mr Thozamile Babane hands over to Mr Salmani: the PPE is handed over to Cllr Mrhaji

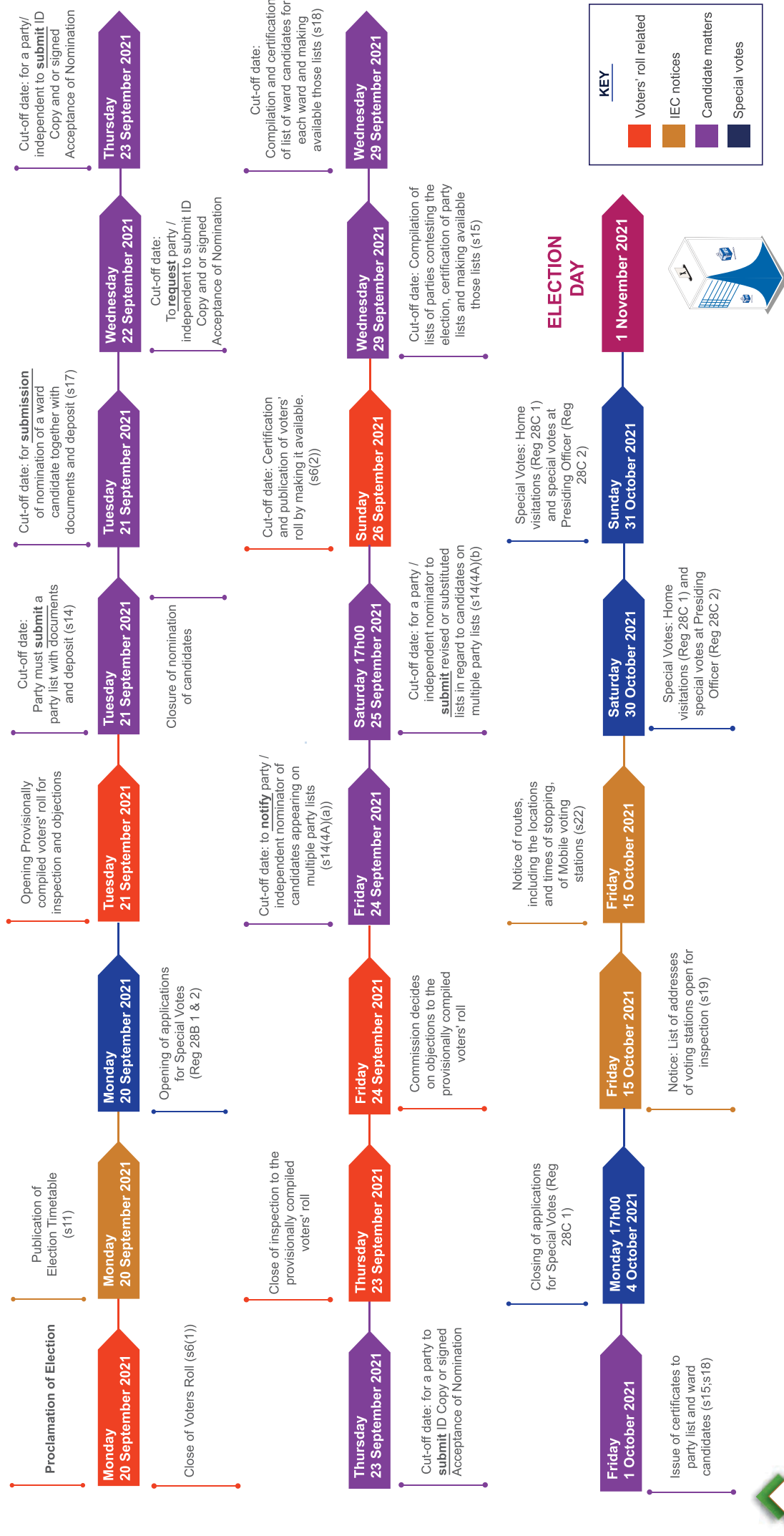


In above picture, we see on the right: Councillor Mrhaji and on the left, the DEDEAT official, Mveleli Mgevu, Local Government Support Official (Mveleli Mgevu) is handing out PPE to a waste-picker



AMENDED 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TIMETABLE

Any act required to be performed in terms of this Act must be performed by no later than a date stated in the election timetable must be performed before 17:00 on that date.



DISCOVERING THE LOST WORLD OF DINOSAURS

Play Africa's new "Dinosaur Dig" exhibition promotes palaeontology and STEM learning in Qhemegha, Eastern Cape

First exhibition of its kind worldwide

Inspiring the scientists of tomorrow through play

JOHANNESBURG (20 Sept 2021) - Children in Qhemegha, Eastern Cape, experienced the wonder of dinosaurs as Play Africa launched its new "Dinosaur Dig" travelling exhibition, a first-of-its-kind learning experience, inspired by scientific research in their community.

The small village of Qhemegha sits along the Orange River, which now forms the border with Lesotho. However, 200 million years ago, this area was a vast and lush river basin, and home to some of the earliest dinosaurs. In 2015, local community members alerted South African universities of the dinosaur fossils in the area. Since then, palaeoscientists have been working with the local community to excavate what is now known as one of the richest dinosaur fossil sites in Southern Africa.

Play Africa, a children's museum based at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg, has partnered with the DSI-NRF Centre for Excellence in Palaeosciences and the Evolutionary Studies Institute at Wits University to design and build the "Dinosaur Dig" travelling exhibition. The 100-m² hands-on exhibition was designed and built by local small businesses before being transported to Qhemegha Senior Primary School. The interactive exhibit includes elements for playing and learning, and even part of a life-size dinosaur skeleton created with a 3D printer.

The aim of the exhibition was to introduce the 160 learners of the schools and ECD centres in the area to the fields of palaeosciences and to discover the lost world of dinosaurs through play and learning.

"We're thrilled to have launched this exhibition in Qhemegha, a community that has told stories about the area's rich dinosaur fossils for generations, and is now internationally renowned in the field of palaeoscience," said Play Africa's CEO Gretchen Wilson-Prangley. "We want every child in Qhemegha to fall in love with and be proud of the amazing fossils of the area. We also want them to learn how they can pursue this field of study for a future career. We believe the children of Qhemegha are among the potential South African palaeoscientists of tomorrow."

Play Africa collaborated with South African palaeoscientists, teachers and community members to design the exhibition, in which learners moved through different scenes to envision ancient landscapes and learned more about how palaeontologists dig for fossils. Every child was empowered to continue learning at home. They received take-home materials including booklets showing how to conduct safe science experiments using everyday household materials.

"The greater Qhemegha community has been the catalyst for ground-breaking research on dinosaurs," said Prof. Jonah Choiniere of the Evolutionary Studies Institute, "and now we're closing the loop by bringing that research back to them to inspire the next generation of palaeontologists."

Exhibitions like Play Africa's can also help support South African efforts to develop a prosperous palaeotourism industry, by linking scientific research in the area to economic growth.

"You could see and feel the optimism and enthusiasm of the whole village about this exhibition," said Sginyane Ralane, a prominent local community member, who along with local shepherd Dumangwe Thyobeka, first alerted Choiniere to the existence of the fossils. "Ultimately we would love to see the children of this village following studies in paleoscience at university. The future looks brighter for these children through play and learning."

Wilson-Prangley says Play Africa encourages children to see themselves as emerging palaeoscientists as soon as they enter the exhibition.

"Doing this immediately activates their imaginations and creative problem solving through playful learning," she said. "The exhibition provides an exciting, informal learning environment with materials that invite children to test, experiment and explore. We help children see that if they loved this experience, they can 'lean in' to coursework and careers that unlock pathways to careers in palaeontology, or other fields in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)."

"I learned that we live in the most interesting place for digging with our landscape here in Qhemegha," said Amkelwe Mnduze, a girl in Grade 7 at Qhemegha Senior Primary. "I am a person that loves natural things. I found out that dinosaurs are not monsters; they are a lot like any animal. My favourite was the Nqwebasaurus."

Programmes such as these in disadvantaged communities may help bridge opportunity gaps in science education. Research shows that racial and gender disparities are reflected in the unequal visibility of South Africans in STEM fields. In 2017, Marina Joubert and Lars Guenther reported in the South African Journal of Science that 78% of South Africa's most visible scientists are white, despite the fact that white South Africans make up only 8% of the country's population. A full 63% of the most visible scientists are white men. This might lead to devastating misconceptions among South African children about who can and should pursue palaeoscience, and other STEM careers.

"Promoting equity in science and STEM in South Africa means opening minds, changing mind-sets and challenging stereotypes that limit children's professional goals," said Wilson-Prangley. "We've designed this programme to show every child that she or he has a right to science, science education and science literacy. We want to unlock new possibilities for children traditionally excluded from, and under-represented in, STEM fields."

Play Africa's "Dinosaur Dig" programme is made possible by a grant from the DSI-NRF's Centre for Excellence in Palaeosciences and African Origins Platform.

"Our partnership with Play Africa on the Dinosaur Dig exhibition has been an enriching experience. We love how Play Africa has brought together scientists, artists, educators, and the community to create an interactive exhibition that is both fun and educational," said Dr Christine Steininger, Interim Director of the Centre for Excellence in Palaeosciences, a global hub that supports the study of the origins of species.

"Together with our partners, we're helping children learn that they can be changemakers," said Wilson-Prangley. "Children are full citizens in our society, and we're helping them learn skills today to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. We want children to know that science is all around them, wherever they are, and that a lifelong passion for science can be ignited anywhere."

The Dinosaur Dig exhibition will continue to travel to remote communities and communities in and around Johannesburg as further funding is secured. "The schools that participated in the launch pass on sincere thanks to Play Africa for allowing them to be exposed to their methods, which encouraged play and an involvement in the learning process. We hope that Play Africa will keep on empowering our communities, particularly in the rural areas," said local school teacher, Themba Jikajika.



BEEI APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



As part of the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme, the Department of Basic Education is inviting the youth to

APPLY FOR ASSISTANT POSTS IN PUBLIC AND LSEN SCHOOLS ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA



WHAT ROLES ARE AVAILABLE?

Education Assistants
(EA's) and General School
Assistants (GSA's)



HOW LONG IS IT FOR?

For 5 months from the
beginning of November



WHAT IS THE STIPEND?

R3817 monthly stipend
(less UIF of R38 per
month)

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?

- 18-35 years of age (must not turn 36 before 31 March 2021)
- Live within walking distance from the school
- Must not be working, studying or training (even part-time)
- Only one opportunity can be taken up per household
- Must not be receiving a government grant (NSFAS, Funza Lushaka)
- No criminal record
- All EA's and some GSA positions require a matric

HOW TO APPLY?

- Register on sayouth.mobi and apply for the school closest to where you live
- This is the only way to apply – you cannot apply to the schools directly

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE AT MIDNIGHT
ON THE 3RD OCTOBER 2021**



basic education
Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



PRESIDENTIAL
EMPLOYMENT
STIMULUS



NEW OPTIONAL BOOKING SERVICE FOR YOUR VACCINATION APPOINTMENT



After registering on the Electronic Vaccine Data System (EVDS), you can now **also** choose **when and where** to get vaccinated or change your vaccination appointment!

Use any device with internet access and visit:

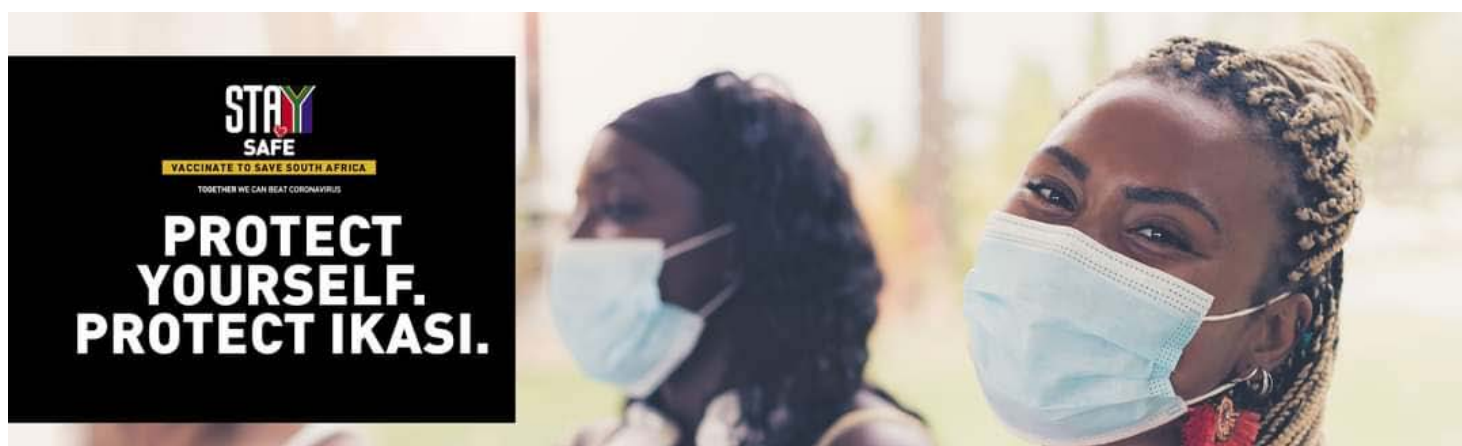
<https://vaccine.booking.health.gov.za>



Make sure you have:

- ✓ The identification number that you confirmed during EVDS Registration, (ID number, Non-RSA Passport, or Asylum Seeker/Refugee Number)
- ✓ Access to the cellphone number that you registered with (your cellphone number will be used to send you an OTP SMS).
- ✓ Your preferred location of vaccination.

Contact the COVID-19 Hotline: **0800 029 999**
(Monday - Friday: 7am to 8pm, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays: 8am to 6pm)



WHATSAPP SUPPORT
0600 123 456
EMERGENCY NUMBER
0800 029 999
SACORONAVIRUS.CO.ZA



100
95
75
25
5
0



SENQU

MUNICIPALITY

Vision

*"A unified, people-centred, developmental
and vibrant municipality"*

Mission

In pursuit to achieve its vision, Senqu Municipality will strive to:

- *Promote a culture of good governance,*
- *Promote a culture of performance excellence,*
- *Develop and maintain appropriate and economic infrastructure,*
 - *Develop and retain human capital,*
- *Adopt a zero-tolerance against corruption,*
- *Promote a conducive environment to stimulate economic development,*
- *Implement appropriate financial management systems to ensure the continued growth and viability of the Municipality,*
- *Ensure regular and scheduled public interaction with communities to enhance accountability and people-centred planning,*
- *Provide basic service delivery needs to communities in an equitable manner,*
 - *Encourage the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment.*

Lady Grey Head Office

19 Murray Street / Private Bag X03
Lady Grey | 9755
Tel: 051 603 1300/1301
Fax 051 603 0445

Barkly East Administration Office

Town Hall in Barkly East
Cnr Molteno & De Villiers Street | P/Bag X15
Barkly East | 9786
Tel: 051 603 1401
Fax: 045 971 0350

Sterkspruit Admin Office

79 Main Street | P/Bag X5058
Sterkspruit | 9762
Tel: 051 603 1409
Fax: 051 611 0042

Traffic Office: 045 971 0089 / 0132
Email: info@senqu.gov.za

www.senqu.gov.za