



## agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Media Statement 20 August 2021

### MINISTER DIDIZA CALLS ON THE ENTIRE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO VACCINATE

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, MP calls upon the Agricultural and Agro-processing sectors to ensure that they go out in numbers to vaccinate. There is a promising improvement in the country's vaccination programme, with over 10% of the population having been vaccinated already.

“I wish to call on all role players in the agricultural and agro-processing sectors to ensure that they are vaccinated because that will go a long way in making sure continued food production in the country” said Minister Didiza

Fighting against COVID-19 forms core of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan of government as pronounced by His Excellency President Cyril Ramaphosa. It is important to increase the number of people who vaccinate, because that will improve chances of ensuring that economic activity and livelihoods in the country continue with minimal interruption.

“This sector is important in terms of jobs as the sector has consistently maintained more than 750 000 jobs over the medium term. Based on its potential on economic growth and job creation, it has been identified as one of the key economic sectors to drive the economic recovery in the country and that is why all of us in the sector need to be fully vaccinated, so that we continue to play our important role” said Minister Didiza

Over nine million vaccines have been administered in the country to date, with over seven million people partially vaccinated and over four million fully vaccinated.

“It is pleasing that the vaccination of persons aged between 18 years and 34 years is starting from today and I hope this TikTok brigade will flock the vaccination sites in numbers”



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Muhasho wa zwa Vhu- limi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavu na Mveledzisoya Mahayani uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba  
Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko  
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba NekuTufufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha  
nokuThuthukiswa kweeNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Terno, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae Lefapha la  
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae  
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle

Scientific evidence confirms that vaccinated people stand a better chance of surviving from COVID-19 than unvaccinated people. Therefore, we must all dispel the unfounded and misleading conspiracy theories about the vaccines and choose life by vaccinating.

“I encourage all unvaccinated people especially in our sector to get vaccinated because vaccines protect us from getting seriously ill from COVID-19 and it’s save lives.”

The Minister concludes by thanking the Citrus Industry for leading the way in terms of sector vaccination initiative which has seen public and private health practitioners conducting on-site vaccination on-farm and in pack houses around the country.

**-END-**

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Reform:

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