



Orion Minerals supports Prieska Covid-19 vaccination programme

Johannesburg (15 June 2021) – Orion Minerals is playing a leading role in ensuring that the Siyathemba community benefits from the national Covid-19 vaccine rollout. The Australian and South African listed base metals company formally handed over a specialised fridge to Prieska’s Bill Pickard Hospital last week.

Bill Pickard Hospital manager Mandy Saaiman said the donation of the vaccine fridge allowed the hospital pharmacy to apply, and achieve, Covid-19 vaccination centre accreditation and after consultation with the District Department of Health, the pharmacy is expected to commence vaccination roll-out to over 60’s later this week.

“The whole of Siyathemba, including Marydale and Niekerkshoop, will benefit,” said Saaiman. Before the pharmacy’s accreditation, the closest accredited vaccination centre within the Pixley Ka Seme District was in De Aar, 180km from Prieska.

COVID-19 vaccination centres are eligible to be part of the Government’s national vaccination program to administer COVID-19 vaccines to health workers and community members as part of a phased rollout.

“Our vaccines will come from Kimberley via De Aar,” she added, saying that both the hospital and pharmacy registered vaccinators.

The hospital’s accreditation as a Covid-19 vaccination centre was made possible with the help of Orion in collaboration with fellow members of the Siyathemba CSI Collaboration Forum. The pharmacy needed refrigeration capacity, shelving and digital infrastructure before it could be accredited as a vaccination centre.

“We are so pleased that Orion has been able to make a difference to the health and wellbeing of the Siyathemba community. This initiative has been in progress since March when Orion placed the order for the specialised medical vaccine fridge/freezer unit required to store the vaccines.

“The Northern Cape is regarded as one of the toughest places to run a mass vaccination rollout, we are proud to have contributed to the improving accessibility and that Prieska has the opportunity to participate in the national vaccination rollout,” says Orion Managing Director and CEO Errol Smart.

Smart said Orion remains committed to working with the Siyathemba and surrounding communities to improve the welfare of all those living in the vicinity of the proposed Prieska Copper Zinc Mine (PCZM).

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For more information, please visit www.orionminerals.com.au

Captions:



1. From left to right – One of Orion’s BEE shareholders, Nelson Mosiapoa; Orion Managing Director and CEO, Errol Smart; Bill Pickard Hospital Manager, Mandy Saaiman; Orion Commercial & Business Support Manager, Marcus Birch and Orion Community Development Officer, Geraldo Swarts outside the Bill Pickard Hospital in Prieska.



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2. From left to right - Bill Pickard Hospital Manager, Mandy Saaiman and Dr Bianca Jordaan with Orion Managing Director and CEO Errol Smart in the hospital pharmacy, which is now accredited to administer Covid-19 vaccinations.