

MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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Minister Motsoaledi, Premier Ramathuba to lead Integrated Community Health Screening in Mafefe Village, Limpopo

Polokwane: The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi and Limpopo Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba together with the MEC for Health Dieketseng Mashego, will on Monday, 17 August, lead an integrated health screening programme in Mafefe village, Limpopo as part of government's commitment to address one of country 's most persistent environmental health emergencies caused by asbestos contamination from abandoned mines that have devastated the area over a very long time.

Mafefe village is amongst communities in the province which continue to face a long-running health risk linked to asbestos contamination stemming from abandoned mines in the area due to inadequate rehabilitation of these mines, which left communities exposed to airborne asbestos fibres, contaminated water sources and soil used in construction.

Thus, this critical intervention aims to address the long-standing public health crisis which include Asbestosis – an irreversible chronic lung disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibres leading to severe scarring of lung tissue. Other severe health condition linked to asbestos are by Mesothelioma which is a rare and aggressive cancer caused by asbestos exposure, mainly affecting the lung lining.

Minister Motsoaledi and Premier Ramathuba, will be joined traditional leaders, local government leaders, SALGA, civil society leaders, when they officially launch integrated health screening programme meant to screen community members, including former mine workers, for asbestos-related diseases.

Details of the event are as follows

Date: Monday, 17 August 2026

Venue: Mafefe Thusong Centre, Lepelle Nkumpi Local Municipality – Limpopo

Time: 09h00

For more information and media enquiries, please contact:

Mr Foster Mohale

Departmental Spokesperson

0724323792/ Foster.mohale@health.gov.za

Mr Sello Lediga

Health Ministry Spokesperson

0823539859/ Sello.Lediga@health.gov.za

Mr Ndavhe Ramakuela

Limpopo Provincial Government Spokesperson

082 200 5357/ Ramakuelan@premier.limpopo.gov.za