

## **THE IMPACT OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE ROLL OUT**

Good Evening Jo'burgers, welcome to "*The Talk*" with myself, The Speaker of Council. We are live on various platforms such as the City of Jo'burg's social media platforms, as well as my own page which is "**Nonceba Molwele**" on Facebook and **@Speaker\_CoJ** on Twitter.

We are also live on Jozi Fm until 7pm, following which we will then take the stream and play it on Eldos FM from 8-9pm, and Alex Fm. It will also play on Chai Fm tomorrow morning. Chai Fm is our newest media partner, and we are very pleased that this Civic Education Community Media team is growing and we very happy to have them on board.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot place more emphasis on the importance of having community on board, in educating our communities on the work of government, and Council in this particular instance. A very warm welcome to Ms Kathy Kaler who is the Station Manager at Chai FM and who is also on the platform.

Warm greetings to Mr Collin Hans who is our anchor on Jozi FM. Very Special greetings to all the listeners, all our viewers, our panel of experts, Professor Mosa Moshabela, Professor Helen Reese and Dr Nyati who is also our Civic Education Partner, and who will also Facilitate today's show together with Mr Collin Hans.

Tonight we are talking about the "**Impact of the AstraZeneca Vaccine on South Africans**". Last week we spoke about the Covid-19 pandemic, and Vaccination Truths and Myths. We received an overwhelming response with many questions and comments on this topic, and therefore decided to do a second series of the conversation. A follow up on the discussion became more important, especially after the announcements made by the Ministry this past Sunday to halt the roll out of the Astrazeneca vaccine.

I think it is safe to say that this this announcement was met with shock and uncertainty. The Honourable Minister Mkhize just this morning advised us that South Africa halted the planned rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University after data showed it gave minimal protection against mild infection from one variant of the virus found in the country, known as the **501 Yv2 Covid- 19 Variant**.

He said that the results of these studies only became available last Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of February and publicly released on Sunday 07 February 2021 (Which is where the announcement was made). The variant was identified in December and is now the dominant variant in South Africa, responsible for 80-90% of new infections.

But what does all of this mean in simple terms for the ordinary man on the street? I'm very excited to announce that we to help us unpack all these developments, we are joined by:

Professor Helen Rees. Professor Helen Rees Chairs the Advisory Committee that is advising the Minister of Health on COVID-19 Vaccines and the South African Variant. She is the Executive Director of Wits Reproductive Health and HIV Institute (RHI), the largest research Institute at Wits University, and Chairs the Board of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority. She is also a Personal Professor in the University of Witwatersrand's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and is the Co-Director of ALIVE (African Leadership in Vaccinology Expertise) which is Wits University's flagship **Vaccinology programme**

Professor Rees is an expert in vaccines and will help us make sense through her analysis on the research, and on what exactly transpired for us to find ourselves here, on how does Astrazeneca works and why it will not be effective in the South African Context. All of this will be in simple language so that you and I, the man on the street can understand and make sense of it. Welcome Professor Rees and thank you for joining us.

I am also delighted to introduce Professor Mosa Moshabela, who is a Chief Medical Specialist, trained as a medical practitioner (MBChB), and specialized in Family Medicine and Primary Health Care (M Fam. Med). He further completed a Masters in Demography and Health (MSc), and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the field of Public Health. He is also the national chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health in the Academy of Science of South Africa. He is the Chairperson of a sub-committee to evaluate and report on the national Health sector response to Covid-19 in South Africa. In the Province of KwaZulu-Natal, he is appointed as a Health Commissioner in the Provincial Planning Commission.

Prof Moshabela will assist us in responding to what happens now? Now that we know what we know, now that this vaccination roll out has been suspended, what is the impact of this suspension on citizens of the South Africa, and how do we as ordinary citizens move passed this to ensure that we do not lose focus on overcoming this killer virus. Welcome Ntate Moshabela we are honoured to have you on the platform.

A very warm welcome to both our guests.

We have our resident Doctor on the show, Dr Nyati, who is a Medical Doctor, and Qualified Specialist and Family Physician and a seasoned healthcare Entrepreneur. He is the Founder and CEO of Proactive Health Solutions; he is a leading Healthcare Industry Thought Leader and is our Partner in Civic Education in the City of Johannesburg Legislature. I wish to take this opportunity to also welcome Doc onto the show. Doc is going to facilitate today's show together with Mr Collin Hans from Jozi FM as I said earlier.

I must say that because we are engaging with our communities this engagement will take the form of a more relaxed format, and less of a formal, academic style approach so that we ensure that we take everybody along and leave nobody behind.

At this point let me hand over to Mr Collin Hans to engage our panel before I give it over to Doc Nyati.

Mr Hans... Let me hand over to you....