Mr C M Dugmore to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With regard to the global outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic:

Whether he can provide a detailed breakdown of the (a) interventions taken by each of the provincial government departments and (b) expenditure of those departments in efforts to contain the spread of the virus; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**Responses from the Department of Transport and Public Works (DTPW)**

**a. Summary of interventions**

***DTPW Transport Operations***

The Department of Transport and Public Works has implemented several initiatives to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in respect of transport. These initiatives are primarily aimed at achieving the following:

* Ensuring that public transport services are available to essential workers during the lockdown period;
* Ensuring the public health safety of those using the public transport services during and after the lockdown period;
* Ensuring the compliance of public transport service providers with the lockdown Regulations and Directions issued by National Government; and
* Supporting the repatriation of foreign nationals seeking to return to their home countries.

The DTPW initiatives to meet these needs are described below:

1. *Measures to ensure the availability of transport for essential workers during the lockdown period*:
* DTPW’s main initiative was engaging with the minibus taxi industry to provide limited services during the lockdown. The loading restrictions under the lockdown place significant financial pressure on the industry, considering the increase in unit costs resulting from lower capacity utilisation. DTPW leveraged its relationship with the industry to ensure that it agrees to providing a limited service in the interim. DTPW is also exploring options for supporting the industry during lockdown.
* In addition to minibus taxi services, DTPW is working with service providers running subsidised bus services, notably Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) and Go George, to provide limited bus services. GABS and Go George are running reduced services which are regularly being refined to adequately service demand.
* In addition, DTPW, through its partnership with the City of Cape Town is working with other services such as Dial-a-Ride providers to ensure the availability of transport in certain areas.
* DTPW is monitoring service availability on an ongoing basis to identify times and locations that require changes. Data being generated is being used to optimise the supply of transport and ensure that essential workers can travel conveniently.
* DTPW is working with the City of Cape Town through the Provincial Transport Planning and Coordinating Committee. The Committee was established to coordinate the transport response to lockdown. Public transport operations are carefully monitored, including through a system of on-the-ground surveys, and the Committee rapidly addresses issues as they arise by developing and implementing appropriate responses.
1. *Measures to ensure public health safety for passengers and drivers –* DTPW is implementing several initiatives, broadly falling into the following categories:
	* *Ensuring social distancing at public transport stations and on vehicles* –DTPW is ensuring this through monitoring and enforcing the loading restrictions included in the national lockdown regulations. In addition, DTPW is working closely with the public transport sector to manage the supply of vehicles to prevent overloading.
	* Other social distancing initiatives being implemented include controlling queues at stations and ranks to ensure that passengers maintain safe distances between one another.
	* *Cleaning and environmental control in vehicles and at stations –* DTPW is ensuring that its services (GABS and Go George) are implementing programmes to sanitise vehicles and facilities on a regular basis*.*
	* *Promoting personal hygiene among passengers and service providers* –DTPW is providing hand sanitisers, masks and gloves to public transport operators, including GABS, MyCiTi and the minibus taxi industry. DTPW has also coordinated the distribution of additional supplies provided by the National Government.
	* *Educating passengers and service providers* – DTPW is supporting awareness campaigns targeted at public transport passengers. The campaigns address personal hygiene issues and the need to avoid unnecessary travel.
	* *Monitoring of public health risk factors –* DTPW has developed a monitoring system to monitor and respond to risk factors at public transport facilities and on vehicles. Factors being monitored include the adherence to loading restrictions, the availability of hand sanitisers at stations and ranks and the sanitisation of these facilities.
2. *Measures to ensure compliance with lockdown regulations –* the DTPW is making use of a monitoring system to monitor compliance with the lockdown regulations. The system includes a team conducting on-the-ground monitoring at stations and ranks, reporting cases of non-compliance in real time using mobile devices.

In addition, DTPW is using the Western Cape’s extensive Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera network to monitor the movement of vehicles and identify cases of non-compliance with regulations e.g. operating hours, unauthorised long-distance travel, and movement across provincial boundaries*.*

1. *Support in the repatriation of foreign nationals –* DTPWassisted in the development and monitoring of a process for repatriating foreign nationals affected by international travel restrictions resulting from the national lockdown. This included the establishment of a centre at the Cape Town Stadium, from where the repatriations are being coordinated. Between 3 and 10 April 2020, a total of 3 365 people were repatriated from Cape Town to Brazil, Germany, the United States of America, the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Canada and Belgium.

***DTPW Traffic Law Enforcement***

Key areas of Traffic Law Enforcement activities to support the lockdown include:

* Enforcing transport regulations during the lockdown.
* Determining the need for personal protective equipment (PPE) and ancillary items required to perform operations during the lockdown.
* Conducting joint operations with the South African Police Service and the South African National Defence Force at roadblocks along main access routes.
* Monitoring movement along secondary roads.

***DTPW Public Works***

Key areas of DTPW Public Works activities to support the lockdown include:

* Procuring PPE for Provincial Traffic Law Enforcement officials and front-line DTPW staff.
* Identifying quarantine and isolation sites for people who cannot afford to pay for accommodation and services.
* Facilitating services rendered at quarantine and isolation sites.
* Procuring additional quarantine and isolation accommodation from large hotel groups across the Western Cape.
* Building a field hospital in Cape Town.

***DTPW Roads***

Key areas of DTPW Roads activities to support the lockdown include:

* Closing secondary roads where necessary.
* Utilising “yellow fleet” construction vehicles to transport hygiene materials where appropriate.

***DTPW communication***

Key areas of DTPW communication activities to support the lockdown include:

* Engaging with key stakeholders, namely: 1) public transport commuters; 2) general road users; and 3) operators and associations that deliver a public transport service.
* Contributing to transversal Western Cape Government communication produced under the leadership of the Department of the Premier (DotP).
* Putting up posters at public transport interchanges, stations and public transport stops.
* Developing, producing and printing industry-specific material for Metrorail commuters (distributed with Metrorail assistance).
* Developing, producing and printing industry-specific material for bus commuters (distributed with Golden Arrow Bus Services assistance).
* Developing, producing and printing industry-specific material for the minibus taxi industry at DTPW expense with South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) logo co-branding. (Distributed with SANTACO assistance.)
* Producing and disseminating social media posts, printed and electronic material (e.g. posters and flyers), supported by regular media releases to provide clarity to specific target audiences on transport-related aspects of the lockdown (e.g., public transport hours during the lockdown, and transporting farmworkers performing essential services).
* Interpreting transport-specific lockdown measures for public consumption.
* Responding to transport-related lockdown questions from a dedicated email address.
* Compiling answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs).
* Providing ongoing updates to informational materials to respond to rapid changes in lockdown regulations to ensure these are accurate and communicate effectively to identified target audiences.
* Launching a new campaign aimed at minibus taxi operators to assist them to understand and comply with lockdown measures.

***General support responses***

Key DTPW general support responses to support the lockdown include:

* Utilisation of Transport Hub and related support apps to support the lockdown.
* Procurement on behalf of others, e.g. PPE for municipal traffic services and the taxi industry.

**b. Summary of DTPW expenditure incurred as at 3 April 2020**

Expenditure incurred on helping to prevent the spread of the virus as at 3 April 2020 amounts to R1 881 393.

***Procurement as at 31 March 2020***

As at 31 March 2020, DTPW had procured the items specified in the table below. Of the amounts listed in the table, R1 775 393 has already been paid to service providers.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Quantity** | **Total price** |
| Masks | 100 | R5 500 |
| Hand sanitiser | 100 550 litres | R10 386 050 |
| Gloves | 281 100 (140 550 pairs) | R337 422 |
| Containers | 3500 | R20 930 |
| Thermometers | 100 | R230 000 |
| Portable toilets | 11 | R177 043 |
| Printing of educational posters | 300 750 | R81 810 |

***Additional procurement-relevant information***

* DTPW has issued the taxi association with 8 520 litres of hand sanitiser and 500 pairs of gloves.
* DTPW’s own traffic officials have been issued with 11 660 litres of hand sanitiser and 81 100 pairs of gloves.
* DTPW is responsible for providing government-funded accommodation to individuals who are in need of isolation or quarantine facilities but cannot afford to pay, or whose circumstances does not allow for them to practically undertake this on their own.