



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa  
Tel: +27 (21) 403-2656, Fax: +27 (086) 724 6398  
e-mail: [parliamentaryleader@da.org.za](mailto:parliamentaryleader@da.org.za)

26 March 2021

Mr M C Ramaphosa  
President of The Republic of South Africa  
P O Box 15  
Cape Town  
8000

Dear President Ramaphosa

### **COVID-19: VACCINE PROGRAMME**

I write to request information pertaining to South Africa's Covid-19 vaccination progress. To date, you have not been open and clear with the public about vaccine procurement and rollout. You have also not convened a meeting of political parties since May last year to robustly discuss South Africa's coronavirus response. South Africa is heading into a third wave of infections with no concrete information as to when they may finally be able to access a coronavirus vaccine.

Regardless of whether the news is good or bad, South Africans have a right to know in the interests of transparency and democratic accountability. Your correspondence with the nation on vaccines thus far has been littered with a series of vague terms and statements such as: "secured for arrival in the third quarter". I'm afraid that these statements do not hold water when each and every day South Africans are losing their lives to the coronavirus, and their livelihoods to a never-ending lockdown.

As such, I feel that you owe it to the nation to answer the following set of questions:

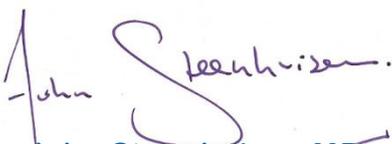
1. Which vaccines have been ordered? How many doses of each vaccine? What are the actual confirmed dates for delivery? Please provide receipts and contracts.
2. How many calls have you made personally to vaccine suppliers? Which suppliers? What was the outcome?
3. Please provide proof and dates of all correspondence between your administration (or those acting on behalf of your administration) and each of the vaccine suppliers that have been approached in attempts to procure vaccines.
4. Please explain why South African production facilities in Nelson Mandela Bay are being used to produce 300 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine by Aspen Pharmacare and yet SA is not going to get a single one of these doses? Why are we not front of the queue since they are being produced here?
5. When will your government publish a detailed, implementable rollout plan?

6. Why was no detailed rollout plan prepared last year? And why is there no detailed rollout plan as yet?
7. When will government's official rollout begin? The current "rollout", as you know, is merely an extension of an existing Johnson & Johnson trial around existing trial sites, and is being run by trial scientists, not by your government.
8. Why has the Johnson & Johnson vaccine still not been approved for general rollout in South Africa? Why is it taking so long, given that the US Food and Drug Administration has approved it?
9. Why was the AstraZeneca vaccine sold without being offered to high-risk people on a volunteer basis, given that high-risk individuals have no other options going into the third wave, and given that the AstraZeneca vaccine would still have given them protection from severe disease and death, even if it doesn't stop transmission? Why did you go against the advice of Professor Shabir Mahdi, who ran the clinical trials for the AstraZeneca vaccine here in South Africa, and of the World Health Organisation?
10. By which date will all 1.5 million healthcare workers be vaccinated? (Phase 1)
11. By which date will all those in the high-risk group be vaccinated? (Phase 2)
12. By which date will the vaccination be available to the general public?
13. By which date will 67% of the South African population be vaccinated against Covid-19?
14. In your State of the Nation Address last month, you acknowledged that the vaccine programme is South Africa's top priority. Why then have you delegated this most important of all programmes to your Deputy President, who is widely known to be corrupt?
15. What has the Deputy President done so far to expedite the process of vaccine procurement and rollout?

Please provide answers to these questions by Friday 2 April 2021. I implore you to answer this set of questions in full to win back the trust and confidence of the South African public and to ensure that our country can chart a path out of this pandemic.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



**John Steenhuisen MP**  
**Leader of the Official Opposition**  
**Parliament of RSA**