

## **NEWS AUDITION**

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In your top stories this hour

# South Africa moves closer to 50-thousand deaths

# Government engaging vaccine manufacturers through different channels

And

# OUTA wants SAA to pay workers and shut its doors

The time is 6 o'clock, I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Good morning.

# The Ministry of Health has confirmed that the country's COVID-19 death toll has increased by two hundred and 19 deaths.

The death toll currently stands at 48-thousand-313.

Most of the deaths were reported in Gauteng with 56, followed by KwaZulu-Natal with 43.

About one-thousand-210 people tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 24 hours, bringing the number of cumulative cases to one-million-494-thousand-119.

# Health Minister, Dr Zweli Mkhize, says that the government is actively engaging manufacturers and suppliers of the COVID-19 vaccines through different but interrelated channels.

He said this when he participated in a debate on the State of the Nation Address in Parliament yesterday afternoon.

He said this includes the COVAX facility, bilateral arrangements with pharmaceutical manufacturers and other mechanisms such as the African Union's Vaccines Financing Strategy and the Vaccine Acquisition Task Team.

According to Mkhize, these initiatives have to-date have allowed the government to engage with the manufacturers of multiple vaccines, namely AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinopharm, Sinovac, and the Sputnik V.

# The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA) said it wrote to the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, and called on the government to pay the South African Airways (SAA) staff what's due and then close down the airline.

OUTA also says the Department must expeditiously settle SAA's debt with its creditors according to the business rescue plan, settle unpaid salaries and retrench all remaining staff.

OUTA's Julius Kleynhans says the country cannot afford to lose more money on this failed state-owned entity.

# The Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (Irba) says CEO Jenitha John has resigned less than three weeks after finance minister Tito Mboweni sacked the entire board of the auditing watchdog at the end of January.

The watchdog oversees a local audit industry in crisis after audit failures at Steinhoff and Tongaat Hulett.

Business Day reports that the Board has faced criticism for John's appointment as CEO in June last year.

And finally

# Myanmar's detained opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has been handed a second criminal charge on the day she appeared in court via video link.

The BBC reports that Suu Kyi, who was earlier charged with possessing illegal walkie-talkies, is now also alleged to have violated the country's Natural Disaster Law.

It is not clear what the new charge, issued on Tuesday, relates to.

# A SHORT while ago, Gold was selling at 1-thousand-792-dollars-80 a fine ounce, and a barrel of Brent crude will cost 63-dollars-20 a barrel.

One US Dollar will cost 14-Rand-60 one British Pound is 20-Rand-25 and the Euro is currently trading at 17-Rand-66.

The price for one Bitcoin is currently trading at 49-thousand-274-dollars-19.

That's all for this bulletin. Your next news update will be at 7 o'clock.

For Wild Coast FM news, I'm \_\_\_\_\_.