

POSTPONE MOTHER'S DAY

Dear Mr. President,

As the first ad agency born in the new democratic South Africa back in May 1994, we have always believed in leveraging the power of ideas to make a difference to society, which is why we at Net#work BBDO on the cusp of our #26 anniversary as a small business are trying our best to quietly unlock some creativity for good during lockdown.

In our own little way we've so far managed to help 1 million people gain access to free WiFi when they most need it through our partnership with Google + Think WiFi plus 54,000 masks will be delivered to hospitals this week via the Shout4Masks initiative we designed for our partners at SHOUT SA.

Sure it's only a drop in the vast ocean of need out there, yet thankfully with so many South Africans rising up to create so many amazing initiatives it all begins to add up to facing challenge after challenge in our beautiful country.

We would now like to reach out to you during these uncertain times. Not only have your decisions helped in flattening the curve, but they have brought us together as a country and a people, when at times we felt isolated and alone.

But here's the thing... In these strange times some of us don't have the luxury of seeing our loved ones

when we sometimes need them most. And with a certain special day coming up soon, there's one essential that all South Africans may not get to enjoy.

Our mothers.

As you know, Mother's Day comes only once a year, on 10 May. Right in the middle of our lockdown.

We're not asking you to lift the rules for a day.

Nor are we asking for special exemptions.

Instead, we at Net#work would like to offer up our Thuma Mina... an exciting idea for you to get behind that we believe could make a real difference to all South Africans.

Postpone Mother's Day.

Help us push it further down the calendar this year so that we can all be there for our mothers the same way they have always been there for us. If lockdown has taught us anything, it has given us a new perspective of the things we have and those we don't. If this special day is moved to later in the year, we'll all get the chance to treat our mothers like the queens they are. After all, where would we be today without our mothers? Where would you be, Mister President?

CAPRO press release, 3 May 2020



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CASHLESS ATM BOOST FOR TLHABANE

Tlhabane/ Rustenburg – The SA Post Office (SAPO) has launched a cashless ATM in Tlhabane – a development widely expected to enhance financial transactions between community members and businesses operating in the area.

The ATM, the first of its kind in the North West province, was officially launched at Kagiso Trading in the GG area of Tlhabane on Monday 4 May. It forms part of an initiative by SAPO aimed at rolling out more than 10,000 cashless ATMs throughout the country.

ATM services have multiple benefits and help to decongest the current South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) grant payment points. They are also crucial in the implementation of social distancing regulations aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) executive mayor Mpho Khunou said bringing such technological innovations to the township and rural areas helps in bridging the digital and economic divides within communities. "We are excited about the cashless ATM. It will benefit our people, especially those actively involved in managing spaza shops in our communities. This will ensure that more money is spent in our townships before people go to the city. We have been hard at work encouraging those involved in the running of tuck shop businesses to acquire the relevant permits for trading within the municipality. This is important because if they comply, it will not be difficult for the government to include them in such initiatives."

In recent weeks, the municipality has been working

closely with traders whose activities have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Member of the mayoral committee for local economic development, councillor Ofentse Kombe, said: "We need to reinvent the way we do things. COVID-19 has brought its own challenges. That is why we will be providing support to our people, especially on matters of compliance and ensure that much of these initiatives stimulate the local economy."

Postal and Digital Communications Technologies deputy minister Pinky Kekana was among the high-ranking government officials who graced the launch.



RLM executive mayor Mpho Khunou said cashless ATMs will enhance economic activity.

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FUEL PRICE DROPS

South Africa – May 2020 will soon join April in setting back-to-back records for monthly fuel price drops. This is according to the Automobile Association (AA), who was commenting on unaudited month-end data released by the Central Energy Fund.

Against the backdrop of the international oil picture, even the disastrous performance of the Rand versus the US dollar over April barely moved the needle on local fuel prices. The local currency's average value against the dollar plunged from R16.45 on 26 March to R18.45 on 28 April, with daily peaks in excess of R19 to the dollar.

Petrol is set to drop by around R1.74 a litre in May, with diesel falling by R1.56 and illuminating paraffin a whopping R2.18.

"The Rand has been pummelled by COVID-19 and the Moody's downgrade to junk status, and yet we are still able to predict record-territory fuel price drops. This goes to show just how severely the world oil price has collapsed."

AA press release extracts, 29 April 2020

