

26 June 2020

Dear Residents



**A huge and heartfelt Thank You to my exceptional Team, and every one of you, who made my birthday so incredibly special on the 12<sup>th</sup> June! My office was literally covered with all the wonderful messages and poems you sent me and my table filled with gifts, goodies and flowers. In the absence of a good old dancing party, I could not have asked for a more thoughtful and heart-warming way to celebrate my entry into the 60's club. I felt truly blessed and thoroughly spoiled!**

### COVID-19 COMMUNICATION No. 16

As we stand today, all Residents who had been placed in quarantine for precautionary reasons as per our COVID Communication No. 15, are now out of quarantine and everyone is well and symptom free. Thank you to all of the directly affected Residents, the nursing staff of Resthaven – who had to be in quarantine for the 14 days as well – the Security guards who had to ‘guard’ the Resthaven entrance and Sister Joy who managed an extremely challenging situation superbly.

President Ramaphosa addressed the nation again on the 12<sup>th</sup> June and announced that although we are remaining on level 3 lockdown, Government has relaxed restrictions on certain industries/sectors of the economy. So we can now go to a casino or a movie, attend a conference, have our hair and nails done – but we still cannot have our families visit us. We agree with the consensus that this seems to be nonsensical and irrational – however, we have to be mindful of the warnings that are coming out every day from all news sources that the rise in infections in South Africa is increasing rapidly and our healthcare facilities are already stretched. I am not going to share any of these reports with you as you are all reading the papers and watching/listening to the news every day. What I do want to share with you is the story I received on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June from one of our Residents. I thank her for her honesty and her willingness to share her story, which I have agreed to do on an anonymous basis.

*“Hi Gail, on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June, I had an appointment with a specialist. After seeing her I called past my daughter's house to collect some things and she invited me to have a cup of tea with her. As we had not seen one another since the start of lockdown and had both not socialised we thought it would do no harm. Famous last words!! She contacted me last week to say that she was feeling out of sorts and was going for a COVID test. The result came back positive on Monday, so I then also went for a test. My result was negative. I have not been in contact with anyone and will stay in quarantine till Monday giving me more than the 14 days required before I start walking on the Estate again. My daughter is at a loss as to where she may have contracted the virus and her whole family has also tested negative. She has only been mildly off colour so far but was very concerned regarding her contact with me.”*

What this story does is remind us that this virus is very much out there and it is sneaky – and that the more people you expose yourself to, you are exponentially increasing your own risk and the risk you may be passing on.

Obviously, our goal is to continue to keep Randjes COVID free as much as, and for as long as we possibly can, whilst remaining realistic about the fact that there is only so much that is within Management's direct control.

So what can we do under the current restrictions to make life just a tiny bit more pleasant?

- We **CAN'T** allow visitors into the Estate just yet - but we **CAN** encourage you to use every opportunity to get outside and use the warmest part of the day to 'visit' with your friends and neighbours on the Estate - in the garden or on the patio. You can catch up with each other, share a laugh or two and feel less isolated in the process. You must do this with your mask on (covering mouth and nose) and at a safe distance from each other plus being outdoors makes it even safer. We know that it is winter but we are having many beautiful days where the sun is warm enough to do this. Find those sunny patches and use them!
- We **WON'T** open up just yet to private gardeners and domestics – but we **WILL** continue to offer you the house cleaning and garden maintenance that Beauty and Sydney's teams have been doing – very successfully I must say – since the 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will wait until the end of July before we revisit this scenario.
- We **CAN'T** go back to normal with regard to the hairdressing situation we had before COVID – but we **CAN** offer you an interim solution to get your hair done/cut for those of you who really need this right now. We will be liaising with the three hairdressers who normally work at Randjes – Sandra, Robbie and Arlette. If they agree to adhere to the COVID safety regulations laid down by Government for hair dressers, we will put out a schedule with the days they will work, where they will work from and what the safety regulations will be when using their services.

You have all been asked to make massive sacrifices over the past 13 weeks and we know how difficult it has been for you to be deprived of seeing your families and friends – we recognize how hard and painful this is as the rules apply to all of us. We have no choice but to remain committed to fighting the virus. Stay the course and stay safe dear Residents.

### **Admin and Maintenance Staff**

Our Team has made a gradual return to work over the past two weeks and we can now inform you that the switchboard and reception (still the temporary one) is operating from 10am-3pm Monday to Friday. You can come and buy your meal/laundry/transport tickets and drop off your maintenance cards etc.

Our full Management and Admin Team will be in their offices to assist you telephonically. We are not yet able to allow Residents into the Admin block as:

- a) it is a construction site and therefore dangerous for Residents and;
- b) our offices do not allow for adequate social distancing to be maintained.

Our Maintenance Team is operating from 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday but still only on the basis of attending to urgent matters or emergencies within your homes. The Maintenance Team will attend to as many communal projects as they can within these shorter hours. Our after hours emergency maintenance system will continue as normal.

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## Update on Construction Projects

The work on the **Admin Block** to create a 24-hour ramped entrance to Fleming House and a new reception and boardroom is moving along very quickly. We are in the process of selecting flooring/tiles/finishes etc.

The new **coffee shop** is also taking shape nicely and the shopfitter is already working on the décor/finishes.

I will have a more accurate finish date for these two projects in the next 10 days or so.

The last two units at **No. 4 Randjes** are scheduled to be snagged from 01 July and completed by 15 July. The boundary wall where the old entrance gate is will also be built closed in the next few weeks.

There is a mountain of paperwork and preparations going on behind the scenes with regard to getting us to the point where the appointed contractor can begin working on the **STB and 300** projects.

Some light relief to end off with (*courtesy of Owen Franklin*)

**Doctors were asked if we should reopen the country from lockdown.** Here's what the various experts said:

Allergists were in favour of scratching it, but Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve.

Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted.

Many Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while Paediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while Radiologists could see right through it.

Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow.

Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter."

Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

Anaesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end everyone was confused and confident that their own confusion was less confused than anyone else's.

**Warm regards**



**Gail**

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