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Response to union allegations

As the health and welfare of our workers is of paramount importance to us, Haygrove absolutely refutes the recent allegations made by Clarence Mtyenele with regards to our Covid-19 practices and protocols. To date, out of nearly 500 employees, 3 have tested positive, of which two have fully recovered and are now back at work. The third one was identified only yesterday. In collaboration with the Department of Health track and tracing procedures are in place for any positive employees and subsequent testing and isolation is recommended as a result. Since March 27th 20 people have been tested and 12 were put into self-isolation. These testing procedures are in line with the Western Cape Department of Health recommendations and we have since confirmed that mass testing, as demanded by NCFAWU, is not possible either through public or private laboratories.

All employees are screened for general health, temperature and any signs of Covid-19 prior to getting on to the buses and in addition, all employees have to complete the daily check which is documented and signed off by a supervisor or manager. The buses are sanitized daily and the capacity limited as per government regulations.

From the very beginning of the pandemic we have taken our Covid-19 policies and procedures extremely seriously (see attached protocols) and introduced daily sanitization of the pack-shed and other areas. During the past fortnight we have employed an accredited external supplier (Diversey) to deep clean and sanitize the pack house on a weekly basis — this has not been mandated but is a voluntary additional action which we have chosen to do. (See attached certificates).

The presence of a full-time nursing sister at our on-site clinic is further testimony to our caring approach and the provision of comprehensive primary healthcare services, together with wellness and counselling sessions underscores how much exception we take to the unfounded allegations.

PAULINE BURROWS
DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY