They call him the father of modern epidemiology, with his roots firmly in KZN.

Liz Clarke reports

A death of an elderly gentleman in the Eastern Cape earlier this month is being seen as the first case of coronavirus in the province.

According to the provincial department of health, the 80-year-old man died in a hospital in Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital in Soweto on Wednesday.

‘‘We have confirmed that the patient died of coronavirus,’’ the department said.

The patient had been hospitalised and tested for COVID-19 around 10 days before his death.

The province said the death had not been linked to the safari sector, which has been rocked by a number of coronavirus cases.

The province’s health department said it had received 43 patients with COVID-19 from the private sector.

Two of the patients have died.

The other 41 live in isolation in the private sector and are under observation.

Mervyn Susser: Career in Brief

Mervyn Susser, professor of preventive medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles, has been awarded the highest recognition in the field of epidemiology.

Susser, who has been a leader in the field for more than 50 years, is the recipient of the John Snow Award.

The award is given annually to a scientist who has made a significant contribution to the field of epidemiology.

Susser is known for his work on the epidemiology of smoking and tobacco use, as well as his contributions to the field of environmental health.

He has served as the editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association and as the president of the International Epidemiological Association.

In 1957, Susser was a medical student in Maputo.

At the time, he was working for the Mozambican government and was involved in the fight against tuberculosis in the country.

He later went on to study in the US and became a professor at the University of California at Los Angeles.

His work has been widely recognized and he has received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of epidemiology.

He is also the founder of the PhD Centre of Aids Prevention and Research in South Africa (CAPRI), which he founded in 1990.

The centre is dedicated to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

Susser has also been involved in the development of the Centre of Epidemiology and Health, which is based in Cape Town.

The centre is funded by the South African Medical Research Council.

Doumet holds the view that reports of deaths in the region are not uncommon.

He said the number of cases could be higher, but it is difficult to be certain due to the lack of systematic reporting.

“There is a need for more thorough investigation and monitoring of deaths in the region,” he said.

Susser has also been involved in the development of the Centre of Epidemiology and Health, which is based in Cape Town.

The centre is funded by the South African Medical Research Council.

Doumet holds the view that reports of deaths in the region are not uncommon.

He said the number of cases could be higher, but it is difficult to be certain due to the lack of systematic reporting.

“There is a need for more thorough investigation and monitoring of deaths in the region,” he said.

He has also been involved in the development of the Centre of Epidemiology and Health, which is based in Cape Town.

The centre is funded by the South African Medical Research Council.