



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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Day 56

MOHW TO EXPAND COVID-19 TESTING *(Page 2)*

CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS 26/05/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	18261
Negative Cases	18226
Positive Cases	35
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	20
Active Cases	8

"Batswana betsho, we are not yet out of the woods. So we need to continue being vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and its consequences".

~ Ms Baile Moagi

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

5,653,821

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 27/05/20

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

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MOHW to expand COVID-19 testing

The Ministry of Health and Wellness has revealed plans to expand COVID-19 testing at selected places across the country to improve testing capacity and turnaround time.

Briefing the media yesterday, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ms Baile Moagi said this comes in the backdrop of the country registering 35 confirmed cases with the last case recorded on 23rd May 2020, one death, and 18,226 negative cases.

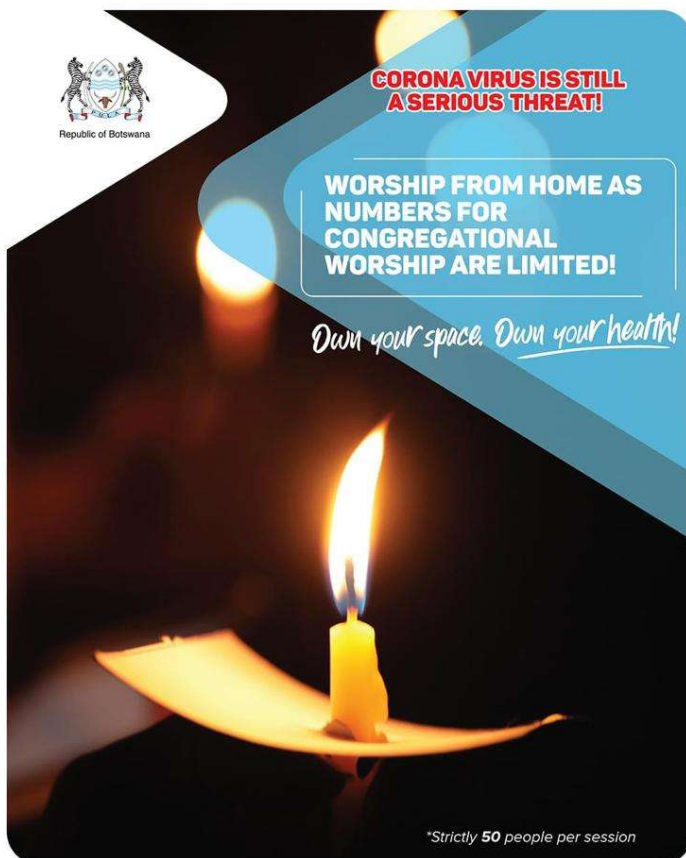
She said the ministry underpins the importance of expanded testing as means of getting the country back on feet. She alluded to the fact that Botswana has had a challenge of recent imported cases from neighbouring countries and with that development the ministry decided to put measures in place to ensure that all permitted arrivals are tested before being granted entry.

She said the Ministry has capacitated laboratories in Kasane, Francistown and Mamuno.

"Martins drift is still being set up and we have also engaged other partners like National Health Laboratory, Botswana HIV/AIDS Reference laboratory, Botswana Vaccine Institute and Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory. Plans to engage private laboratories for COVID-19 testing is also ongoing," said Ms Moagi.

Meanwhile the Acting Permanent Secretary said Dental and Elective surgeries that were postponed are billed to resume and patients will be scheduled.

"Batswana betsho, we are not yet out of the woods. So we need to continue being vigilant in our fight against COVID-19 and its consequences".



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Truck Drivers Concerns Resolved

~Hon Segokgo

Truck drivers transporting essential goods into Botswana will continue to undergo a COVID-19 mandatory testing before proceeding to deliver their consignments.

According to the Minister of Transport and Communications Hon Thulagano Segokgo, the Ministry has responded to issues raised by truck drivers and the complaints will soon be a thing of the past.

Minister Segokgo said they came up with an arrangement where all drivers entering Botswana will have access to a waiting area at the border, have access to ablution facilities, be able

to buy food while waiting for the results. Truckers will be allowed to test and go deliver the cargo under police escort without waiting for the results and immediately go back to their respective countries the same day.

He also stated truck companies that have trucks in Botswana will receive the trailer at the port of entry and proceed to deliver the goods at warehouses after disinfecting while the foreign driver remains at the border.

Meanwhile the Minister mentioned that other services that have resumed

at his Ministry are registration of motor vehicles, issuance and renewal of provisional driver license, conversion of foreign driver licenses. Minister Segokgo also highlighted the Ministry is not yet receiving transport passenger permits applications.

He said they will resume practical testing and PRDP renewal beginning of July while roadworthiness test will be conducted with effect from 2nd June, 2020.

The Minister said movement of long distance bus operators is not yet fully operational due to the requirement of inter-zonal permits needed.

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Initiatives and interventions in the Agricultural sector

~PS Opelo

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided a valuable lesson on the need to have a response strategy to ensure resilient food systems during future pandemics.

This was said by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Food Security Mr Jimmy Opelo when giving an update on the ministry's response to COVID-19 and the lessons learned beyond Phase 3. He said restricted human movement affected the fundamental activities in the agric sector that would have normally been carried out, thereby, leading to reduced food production.

Mr Opelo, therefore, emphasised the need to upscale infrastructure through the use of ICT to manage farms and improve agricultural production. He explained that a decision has been taken to upscale the agro-processing industries to grow production of dried fruits and cheese locally.

Further developments, he said, also included water provision for agriculture to facilitate horticultural farming or irrigation. Following the recent Extraordinary G20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued a joint statement encouraging countries to work together to strengthen cooperation during the pandemic that is affecting the world.

The statement noted that restrictions on movement within and across countries could hinder food-related logistic services, disrupt entire food supply chains and affect the availability of food. FAO also cautioned that the COVID-19 pandemic was already affecting the entire food value chain system.

Madagascar sends troops, doctors to virus-hit eastern town

According to AFP, Madagascar's government has announced it will dispatch troops and doctors to an eastern town after several bodies were found in the streets and where two people died from the novel coronavirus.

Madagascar's cabinet held a special meeting on Sunday to discuss the situation in Toamasina, the country's second largest city. The Indian Ocean island nation has registered 527 infections and two deaths, both in Toamasina.

Since Thursday, more than 120 new cases were confirmed, and several bodies were found in the city's streets though the cause of death was not clear. "Doctors must carry out thorough examinations to see if these deaths are caused by another illness or if they are really due to severe acute respiratory problems which is the critical form of Covid-19," Professor Hanta Marie Danielle Vololontiana, spokesperson for the government's virus taskforce, said in a national broadcast on Sunday.

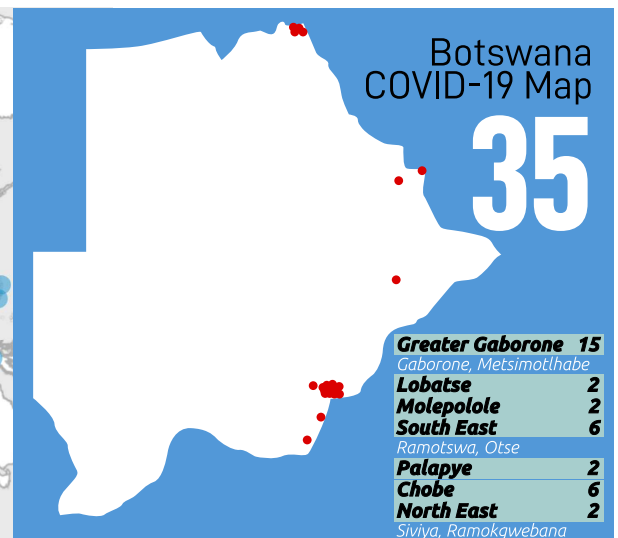
The government will send 150 soldiers to reinforce Toamasina, maintain order and enforce measures against the coronavirus such as mask wearing and social distancing.

A team was also ordered to distribute a drink based on artemisia, a plant recognised as a treatment against malaria, which the Malagasy authorities claim cures Covid-19. The potential benefits of this herbal tea, called Covid-Organics, have not been validated by any scientific study.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 27/05/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 1,695,776	South Africa - 25,937	Mozambique - 227
UK - 268,616	Egypt - 19,666	Zimbabwe - 132
Spain - 236,259	Zambia - 1,057	Malawi - 101
Italy - 231,139	Ethiopia - 731	Angola - 71
France - 183,067	Madagascar - 612	Botswana - 35
China - 84,104	Eswatini - 272	Namibia - 22



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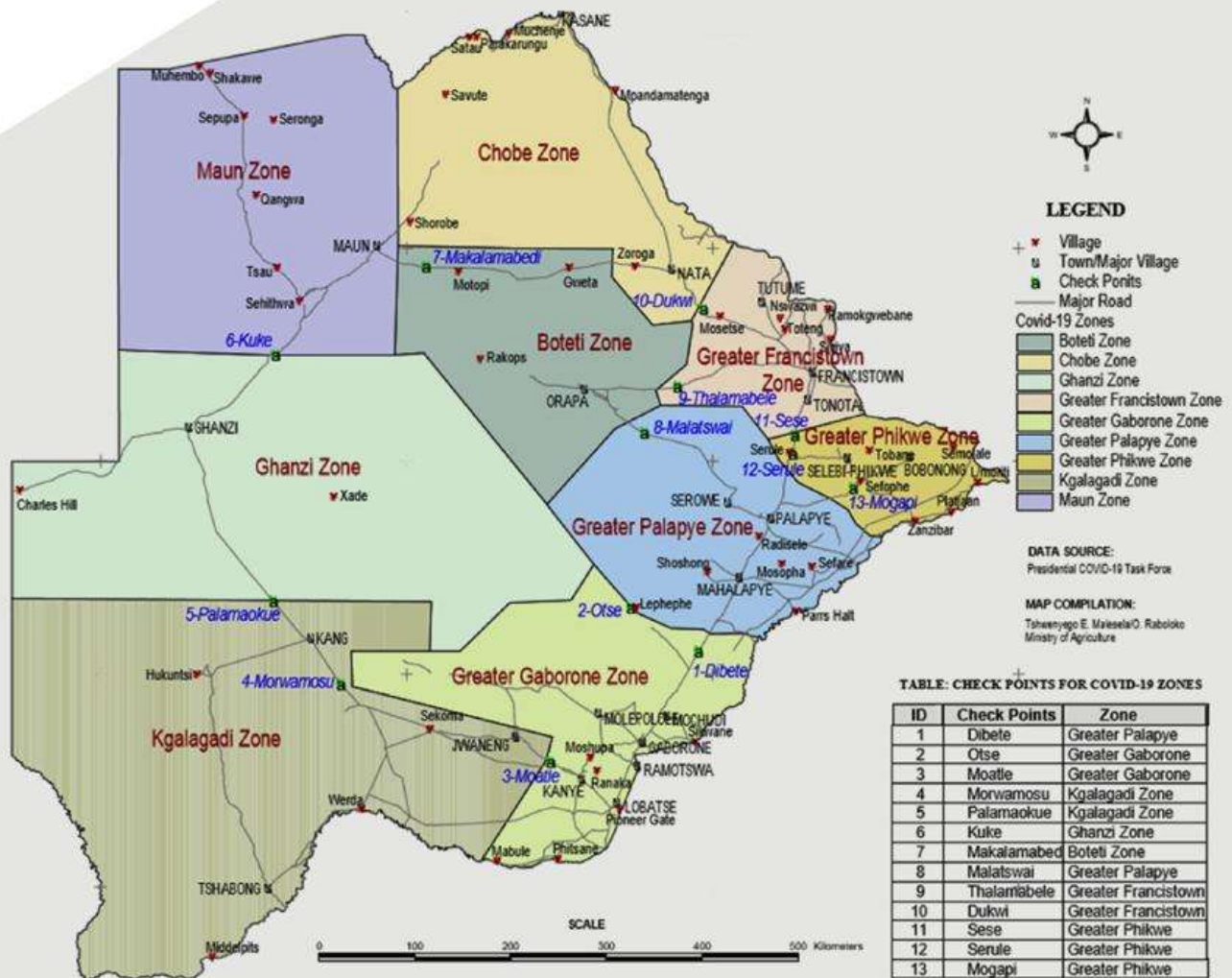
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COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



KNOW YOUR ZONES

Extreme Social Distancing ended on Wednesday signaling the end of the three phases which were introduced to curb the spread of the virus in the country. The Presidential Task Force has developed a surveillance plan to monitor the disease. This resulted in the different zones to create cohorts for easier monitoring, easier tracing of contacts of positive cases and to avoid uncontrollable spread across the country.

The Inter-Zonal permit is therefore a requirement for people to travel from one zone to the other. Thirteen law enforcement check points have been designated across the country to monitor movements of people.

The nine (9) Covid -19 Zones are as follows;

1. Greater Gaborone zone
2. Greater Palapye zone
3. Greater Selibe Phikwe Zone
4. Greater Francistown
5. Boteti zone
6. Chobe zone
7. Maun zone
8. Gantsi zone
9. Kgalagadi zone

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Republic of Botswana

During this challenging time, our truck drivers put their lives on the line for us everyday to make sure we have our essential supplies.

They are us. We are them.



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