



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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Day 60



President Masisi Thanks Batswana



Rest In Peace
Mr Thuso Letlhma

Batswana have been thanked for their understanding and cooperation during the COVID-19 pandemic. His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said he is grateful that since the outbreak of COVID-19, Batswana have mounted a spirited response, first to prevent the spread and transmission of the disease in the country and secondly, to contain the rate of infections. *Continues on Page 2*

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

6,130,158

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 24/05/20

BOTSWANA RECORDS 3 MORE CASES OF COVID-19 CASES.

Botswana has recorded three (3) more cases of COVID-19.

From the announcement made by the Director of Health Services, Dr Malaki Tshipayagae yesterday, the three recorded cases were imported from neighbouring countries.

The new development means Botswana now has 38 COVID-19 confirmed cases.

He also mentioned that Botswana has registered one more recovery case bringing the total of recoveries to 21.

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

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The NEOC is located on the 4th floor at the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security.

President Masisi Thanks Batswana

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Speaking during the national address over the weekend, Dr Masisi said the strategy has to a large extent paid off as evidenced by the low number of local transmission so far. The President however urged the nation to be vigilant.

"It is too early for us to celebrate any success because as you will agree with me, we still have a long way to go in our fight against this invisible enemy that knows no geographical boundaries," said the President.

Dr Masisi said the country has endured fifty-nine days of extreme social distancing measures, with immense personal and financial sacrifices. He reiterated that it is through the unity of the nation and unwavering commitment to fight this scourge that has made this mammoth task a success.

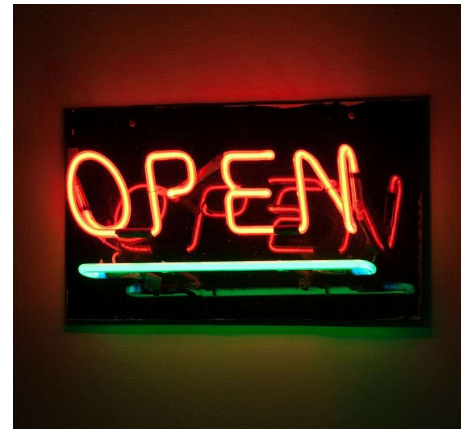
"We are still going through the phased approach to ease the lockdown restrictions and this is intended to facilitate economic recovery and social transition into the new normal, underpinned by disease containment and management," His Excellency said.

ALCOHOL SALE BAN LIFTED

Minister of Investment Trade and Industry Ms Peggy Serame says government will now allow the sale and consumption of alcohol in a controlled manner.

In a televised media address, Minister Serame said all liquor outlets licensed under Liquor Act of 2008, will sell alcohol on stipulated times and dates. She said taking into consideration, the impact of prolonged closure of liquor outlets and the gains made thus far in relation to containing the spread of the disease, a decision was taken to allow for the sale of alcohol under restricted conditions.

"However the sale, of traditional beer under Schedule 3 of the Liquor ACT 2008, will only take effect after three months to allow for consultations with Dikgosi and other stakeholders, as well as develop new regulations for the sale of traditional beer". Licensed liquor outlets include Bottle store, Wholesaler Liquor and liquor depot, hotel liquor, casino liquor, temporary liquor and restaurant liquor. She urged all alcohol establishment



to adhere to the prescribed COVID-19 regulations and protocols. She said there will be no sale of alcohol from Sunday to Tuesday. She cautioned all alcohol outlets to ensure adherence to the set regulations, failure of which will lead to trading licenses being suspended or revoked. She added that legal action will be taken against those who will not follow the COVID-19 guidelines.

The sale of alcohol will be from Wednesday to Friday at 10:00 hours until 18:00 and on Saturday from 10:00 to 16:00. There will be no sale of alcohol from Sunday to Tuesday. Minister Serame added that all sales will be on takeaway basis with the exception of sit-in restaurants.

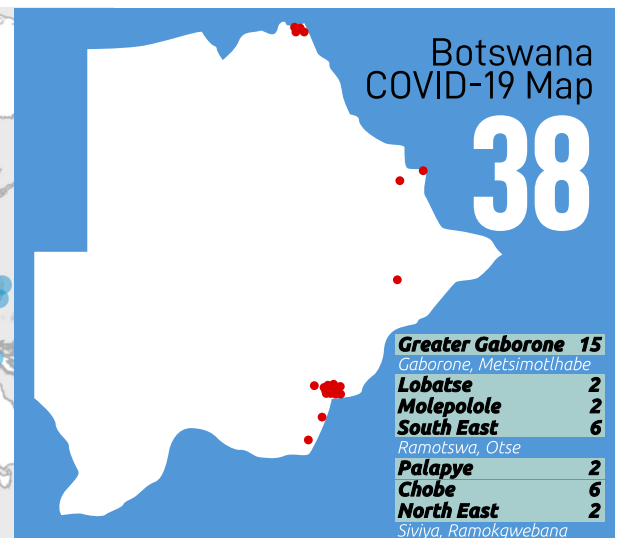
She stressed that if consumers are not in a restaurant, they can only consume alcohol at their households.

Sale of alcohol takes effect from this coming Wednesday 3rd of June 2020.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 28/05/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 1,784,824	South Africa - 32,683	Malawi - 279
UK - 276,156	Egypt - 24,985	Mozambique - 254
Spain - 239,479	Ethiopia - 1,172	Zimbabwe - 174
Italy - 232,997	Zambia - 1,057	Angola - 84
France - 189,009	Madagascar - 771	Botswana - 38
China - 84,102	Eswatini - 285	Namibia - 24



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Community Testing underway in Mogoditshane



Ministry of Health and Wellness Public Health Specialist Dr Lebapotswe Tlale says random community testing has started in Mogoditshane.

When briefing the media over the weekend, Dr Tlale said testing will be conducted in all Mogoditshane wards by the Ministry of Health & Wellness in conjunction with COVID-19 Task Force and Statistics Botswana with effect from May 31st 2020.

Dr Tlale said they decided to carry out the tests after reports that 4 foreign nationals who were being repatriated from Botswana tested positive to COVID-19. He said the victims indicated that they resided in Mogoditshane prior to their repatriation.

He however said they could not locate one place where they lived hence they decided to randomly test 6,000 people in 1,600 households.

For her part, Ministry of Health and Wellness Health Promotion Officer Ms Naledi Mokgethi, said the programme is not intended to target illegal immigrants but rather to get the intensity of Coronavirus.

In case the results show that the virus is rampant in Mogoditshane, there is a possibility of the whole village being placed under lockdown.

Batswana abroad to be repatriated

Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation has revealed that about 1,400 Batswana have registered in different embassies across the globe to be assisted to return back home.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Affairs & Cooperation Mr Gaeimelwe Goitsewang was briefing the media about repatriation, temporary support and other interventions by the ministry to Batswana living in other countries. Mr Goitsewang said the country found itself in a difficult position as a number of countries imposed travel restrictions as a way of containing the pandemic, making it difficult for the Ministry to facilitate Batswana who may have wanted to return home. In an effort for those who had expressed interest through the Mission in

Ethiopia, engaged the Ethiopian Airlines based on the realisation that they had flight from London, United States of America to Addis Ababa where a number of Batswana in those localities had expressed interest.

The first arrival is expected from Addis Abbaba on the 3rd June 2020 for the first 97 Batswana who have expressed interest to use the chartered airline which has a capacity of 116. Mr Goitsewang appealed to Batswana who may wish to return back home to take advantage of this opportunity to avoid further complications during the operation.

Mr Goitsewang further indicated that the Namibian Embassy has negotiated with Air Namibia who will be flying from Frankfurt and London on the 2nd June 2020 and therefore appealed for

Batswana who may wish to take advantage of the 29 seats availed by the airline. The Namibian Embassy will facilitate the arrivals to Botswana. He further appealed to Batswana to register with the nearest Embassy in order to help Government appreciate the numbers and the challenges they face for ease intervention by Government. "The Embassies are there to serve you and make our job easier," he said.

Mr Goitsewang stated that over 400 Batswana were repatriated back home from South Africa through the Pretoria and Johannesburg Offices with about 243 being citizens and the permanent foreign residents, while from Zimbabwe four citizens were assisted to return with one being a foreign permanent resident.

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In order to revive Botswana's tourism sector, Government will accelerate the initiatives aimed at stimulating local and regional tourism by creating an enabling environment for increased investment in the tourism sector and facilitate citizen participation.

When addressing the nation on Saturday, His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi said the agro tourism guidelines are also being reviewed to facilitate citizens to make a decent living out of their fields (masimo). "To compliment Agro-Tourism and diversify its products, Game Farming guidelines shall soon be issued to enable those Batswana who are interested to keep small wildlife or game in their fields as they meet the set criteria," he said.

The President further said land reserved for tourism purposes has been identified around the country and shall be made available to citizens for investment. This type of land has been identified in various districts such as, Kgatleng, Ngamiland, Chobe, Central and the South East. According to the World Tourism Organisation, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a 22 percent fall in international tourist arrivals in the first three months of 2020 leading to a decline of 60-80 percent in revenues.

In Botswana, community trust and other tourism operators have had all their bookings for the current year cancelled leaving them with no source of income. Lack of hunting due to movement restrictions will continue to significantly affect revenue for our communities and other mobile safari services including freelance guides.



Republic of Botswana

ADVISORY ON REGISTRATION DETAILS REQUIRED ACROSS ALL BUSINESS SECTOR ENTRY POINTS:

Public and private organizations are reminded to ensure and safeguard personal visitors/customers information contained in COVID-19 registers for purposes of contact tracing.

Only an authorised employee of the business will enter the registration details with no other customers being granted authority to do so. Businesses are authorised to collect the following information only:

Full Names Contact Details Dates of their visit Temperature readings



All business operations are expected to have temperature scanners on site and access into premises should be denied to those without masks and who decline their temperatures and personal details to be taken.

Equally, it is a criminal offence for anyone other than those authorized to gather such information to be in possession of it. Unauthorised people in possession of such information will be prosecuted and risk being fined P5000.00, or face a prison sentence of up to 12 months or both.

The public is urged to report anyone whom they suspect might have obtained their personal details illegally.

Dr. Malaki Tshipayagae
Director of Health Services

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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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Uthlwang Tshipi Ya Ila Our masked future leaders



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