



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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Day 64

Smart Classrooms

In pursuit of academic excellence

GET IN TOUCH

University of Botswana intensifies online learning

The University of Botswana has intensified online teaching and learning to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs Prof Happy Siphambe said in an interview that this was part of the measures to manage the spread of COVID-19 on campus and to avoid crowding in lecture rooms.

As the University prepares to resume classes next week following suspension of classes due to the pandemic, Prof Siphambe noted that they have encompassed
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CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS

04/06/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	24582
Negative Cases	24542
Positive Cases	40
Total Deaths	1
Recoveries	23
Active Cases	4
Transferred Out	12

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

6,581,066

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 04/06/20

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.

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University Of Botswana
Administration Block

technology to deliver teaching and learning efficiently. He said because of COVID-19, it would be difficult to do a three (3) hour lecture, hence the need to explore other effective mediums of interacting with students.

Prof Siphambe further explained that should COVID-19 take a turn for the worst, learning will not have to stop as online learning would ensure continuity. He said with online learning, more attention would be placed on Lecturer and student interaction while the same platform will also be used for virtual classes.

"We are never going to close the university in future

should we have anything similar to COVID-19 again," he said. Prof Siphambe said the University will spend P7.8 million for one (1) year contract with Botswana Telecommunications Corporation to ensure provision of simcards loaded with 1 GB of data for the 14 000 students. During the COVID-19 health protocols orientation for students this week as noted in the University's Facebook page, Vice Chancellor, Professor David Norris, explained that blended teaching and learning will now become the 'new normal' to ensure safety and compliance with COVID-19 health protocols on campus.

He further emphasized that the university would do everything possible to make sure that teaching and learning was "as effective as if there was no Coronavirus". He nonetheless appealed to everyone to try as much as possible not to compromise the situation on campus.

"These are trying times indeed but please let us try as much as we can to adhere to simple regulations on campus. It is for your own good and for the health of everyone," said Professor Norris.

The Vice Chancellor acknowledged that there would often be inconveniences but such was the new normal that everyone must get used to.

SADC Advocates for Regional Trade



To facilitate the regional COVID-19 response, SADC Council of Ministers has urged SADC Member States to source Medical Equipment and Supplies from the region.

Member States have also been urged to engage the private sector to redirect some of the manufacturing towards production of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs). Also as part of the outcomes from the SADC council of ministers virtual

meeting held on 29th May, the Ministers resolved that the SADC Secretariat will disseminate a list of essential medical equipment manufacturers and establish an on-line platform to facilitate easy access to information on manufacturers and suppliers of Medical Equipment needed to address the COVID-19.

The Council noted that while the regional Guidelines on Harmonization and Facilitation of Movement of Essential Goods and Services across the SADC Region which were adopted on 6th April, 2020 have played a critical role in facilitating movement of goods, there were challenges which required urgent attention.

In this regard, the Council directed the expanded Technical Committee

on Health to review the Guidelines by the 6th of June 2020 and report to Council. In recognising the urgent need to cooperate with other Regional Economic Communities and the African Union (AU), the Council directed the Secretariat coordinate with Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the East African Community (EAC) in the context of the Tripartite arrangement, and the AU at Continental level, to align and harmonize Measures and Regulations.

The Council also urged Member States to implement the recommendations outlined in the Preliminary Report on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19's findings.

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Government Assists Batswana in the UK



HE Rev. Dr John Seakgosing
High Commissioner-Uk

About 35 Batswana residing in the United Kingdom registered for assistance to return to Botswana because of the CoronaVirus scare which has resulted in restriction in movements between countries.

The 35 come from various United Kingdom Cities and 1 from Ireland.

Botswana's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom H.E Rev. Dr. John G.N Seakgosing said ever since the outbreak of CoronaVirus, the High Commission has requested Batswana under their jurisdiction to register so that the High Commission is aware of their needs and where they are based.

Dr. Seakgosing said there are Batswana who were assisted to go

to Botswana this month courtesy of Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation. He said some of those registered arrived in Botswana on the 3rd of June 2020.

Dr Seakgosing said social media has come handy in these trying times, saying they used the new media to communicate with Batswana in United Kingdom and other countries under his jurisdiction. He said the High Commission is currently closed for public except for emergency issues. Dr Seakgosing said they also have to observe COVID-19 Secure Workplace.

Meanwhile H.E Seakgosing revealed there was a Motswana who was diagnosed with COVID-19 but said he was discharged from hospital after recovery. Dr Seakgosing said

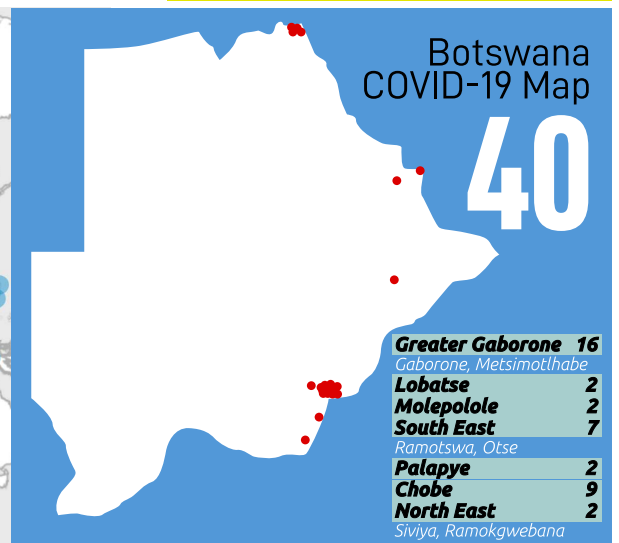
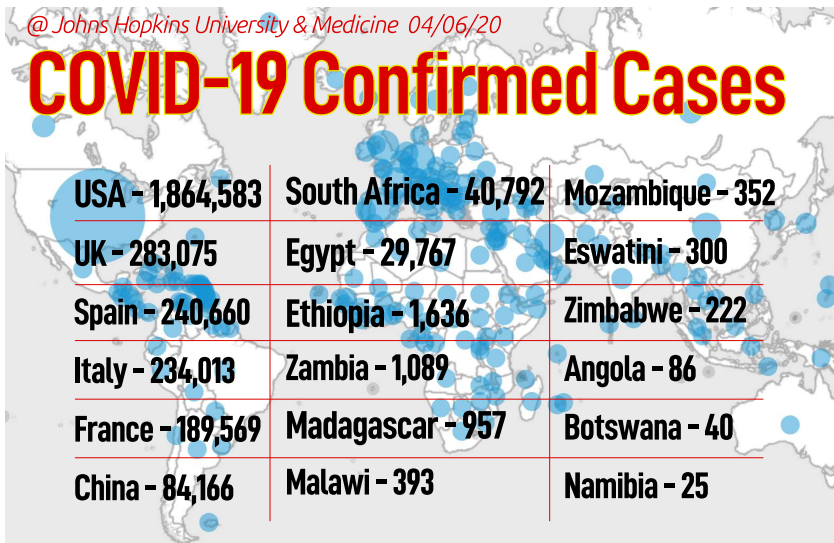
UK High Commission looks after 11 countries and Commonwealth. These countries are Croatia, Slovakia, Romania, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Ireland and Spain.

SADC advocates for regional trade

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In terms of preparedness and response to disasters and crises, the Council urged Member States to accelerate operationalisation and implementation of regional strategies and instruments that are aimed at responding to crises.

These strategies and instruments include; the SADC Regional Development Fund; the Preparedness and Response and Disaster Fund; the Regional Resilient Strategic Framework 2020-2030.



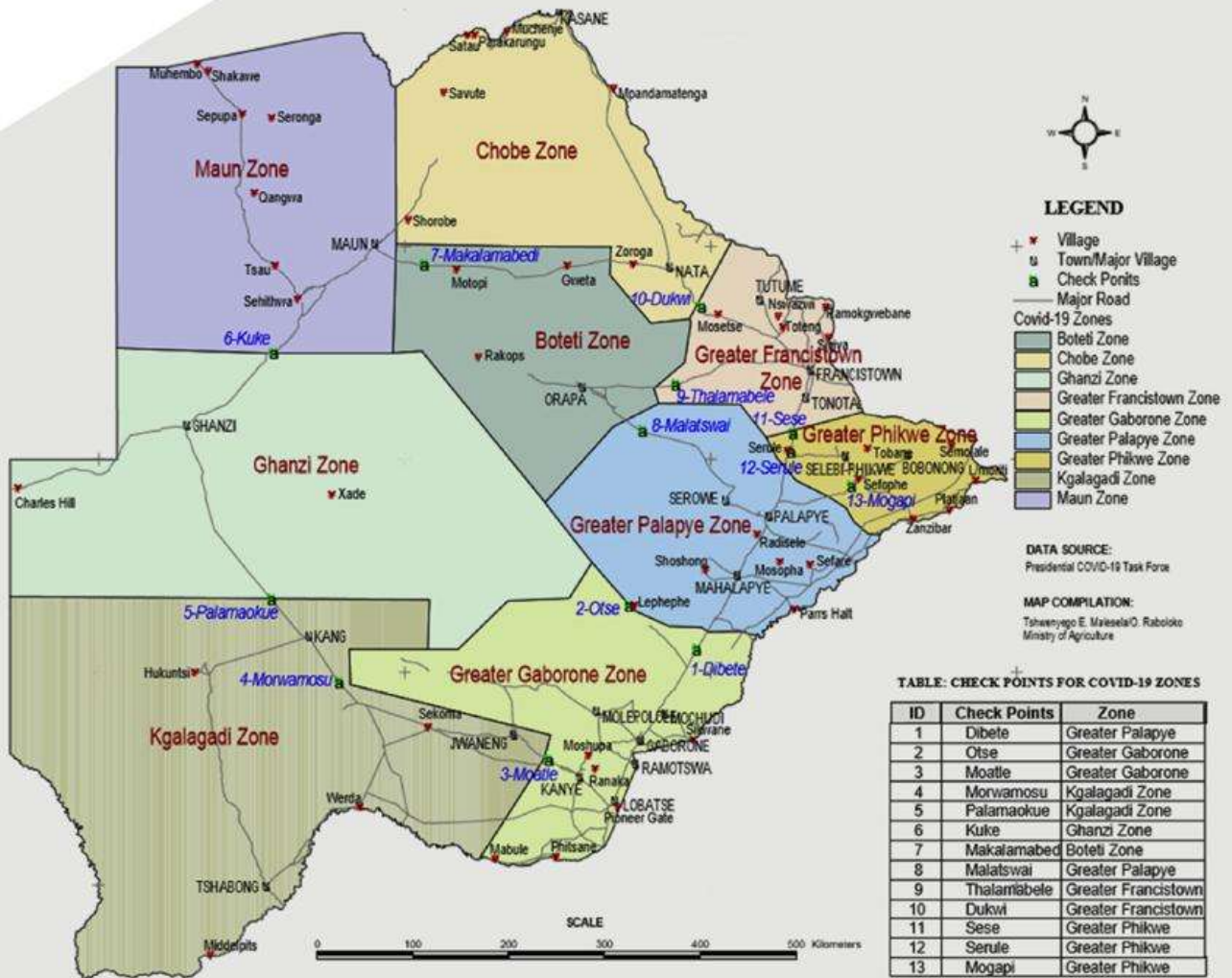
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Republic of Botswana

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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