



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | LOCKDOWN

Issue 16 | Thursday, 23 April 2020

DAY 21  
OF 28

## Dr Masupu announces 2 Positive Cases

**B**otswana has recorded two more COVID-19 cases bringing the total number of positive cases to 22. Addressing the media, Presidential (COVID-19) Task Team National Coordinator Dr Kereng Masupu said the 2 cases were registered in the region of Metsimotlhabe-Molepolole.

This is an increase of 2 from the last report of Monday 20th April 2020. As at 13th April 2020, 3441 samples were tested, out of which 13 were positive and 3428 were negative. Since then to date, 5023 samples have been tested, out of which 22 tested positive and 5001 tested negative.

This equates to one infection per day, hence the urgency to trace the contacts of those that have tested positive of COVID-19. "If we delay, we might fail to contain the spread of the virus." The Task Force has already consulted the local and health authorities to roll out contact tracing and has received overwhelming support.

*Members of Parliament who have been in quarantine have all been tested. They'll be completing their quarantine on the 23rd April, 2020. Upon release, they'll be given necessary protocols to follow as dictated by extreme social distancing.*

### CURRENT SITUATION IN NUMBERS

22/04/2020

Lab Tests Performed & resulted	5023
Negative Cases	5001
Positive Cases	22
Total Deaths	1
New Confirmed Cases	2

SAY NO TO TOBACCO  
IN THE TIME OF COVID-19 AND ALWAYS



HIGHER CHANCE OF TRANSMISSION  
FROM HAND TO MOUTH



## Update from the Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry Hon. Peggy Serame

### Informal Sector

Currently there is a project undertaken by the Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) to register all SMMEs both in the formal and informal sector. We have all agreed that they should fast track this project so that we can register all the SMMEs in Botswana.

### Rent

As of now there is no decision taken by government on support to pay rent by different people both in the formal and informal sector. It is my hope that as Batswana, we will work together to support each other to assist each other where we can ensure that nobody is asked to move out of a house because they are unable to pay rent.

### CEDA to facilitate

We have set aside P10 million at CEDA to facilitate the informal sector. This should be such that when we reopen the economy, they should be assisted to start their businesses. The above amount is in addition to the initial P40 million that was previously announced.

### New Opportunities and initiatives

The ministry continues to engage and facilitate several companies that are planning to start production of Personal Protective Clothing (PPE). Some will do the gowns and masks etc.

### Clothing shops remain closed

To ensure that we protect ourselves from this virus and protect the expecting mothers and their unborn babies, we will not open any shops. However, the Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to ensure that as the situation arises with the need to assist, something will be provided for them.

## EMERGENCY POWERS (COVID-19) REGULATIONS 2020

*During the period of a lockdown every person shall remain confined to their place of residence, inclusive of the yard space to avoid contact outside his household.*

Emergency Powers Act (Cap. 22:04)

*Any person who relays any information to the public about COVID-19 from a source other than the Director of Health Services, and the WHO commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding P100 000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both.*

Emergency Powers Act (Cap. 22:04)

## CONTACT TRACING EXERCISE ON

*The health officials together with other stakeholders are on the ground tracking and testing all those who had contact with COVID-19 positive cases. Presidential (COVID-19) Task Team National Coordinator Dr. Kereng Masupu said the build-up of cases in the South East and Kweneng following the recent update of COVID-19 positive cases called for change of strategy hence the move from sampled community testing to contact tracing.*

*The country has since registered 22 COVID-19 positive cases and 1 death. The exercise is expected to run for 2 weeks and targeted villages include Molepolole, Bobonong, Mahalapye, Ramotswa, Metsimotlhabe and Siviya.*

*The exercise will help identify potential risk-groups to inform targeted interventions and to develop an informed national emergency COVID-19 response plan.*

*It is undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in collaboration with Statistics Botswana, ACHAP, Botswana Harvard Partnership and the University of Botswana.*

### HOW TO PUT ON, USE, TAKE OFF AND DISPOSE OF A MASK

**To remove the mask: remove it from behind (do not touch the front of mask); discard immediately in a closed bin; clean hands with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water**



### THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

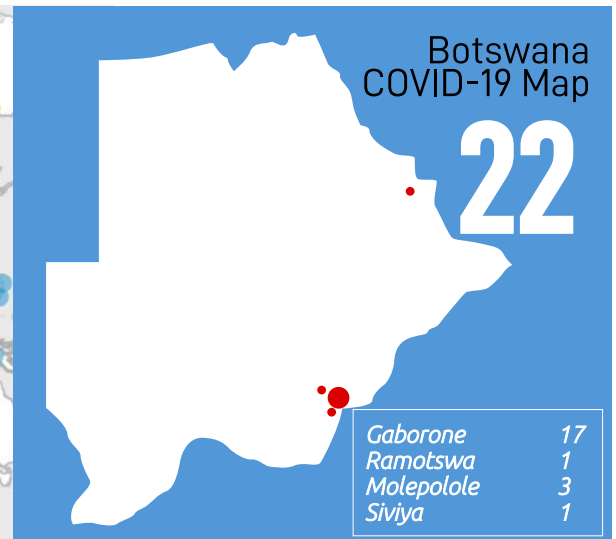
Tollfree: 0800 600 111 | Telephone: 369 8337 | E-mail: neoc@gov.bw  
The NEOC is located on the 4th floor at the Ministry of Defence Justice and Security.



@ Johns Hopkins University &amp; Medicine 22/4/20

# COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 830,789	Egypt - 3,490	Madagascar - 121
Spain - 208,389	South Africa - 3,465	Zambia - 74
Italy - 187,327	Morocco - 3,377	Mozambique - 41
France - 159,315	Algeria - 2,910	Zimbabwe - 28
UK - 134,635	Nigeria - 782	Botswana - 22
China - 83,868	Tanzania - 284	Namibia - 16



## SADC and UNESCO sign agreement to ensure learning never stops

The SADC Secretariat has agreed to work with UNESCO, leading a Global Education Coalition to support SADC Member States in mitigating the effects of the Coronavirus on education, and in ensuring the continuity of education and learning programmes.

The two organisations have signed a Joint Statement and Action Plan that will ensure continuity of learning in the context of COVID-19.

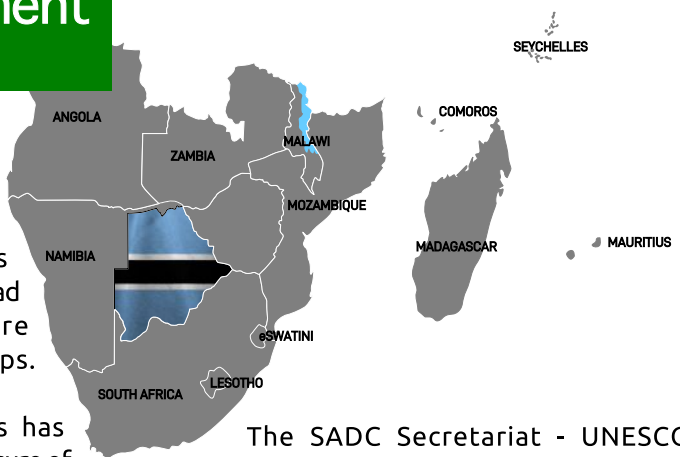
In a Joint Statement, signed by the Executive Secretary of SADC Dr Stergomena Lawrence Tax and the Regional Director and Representative for the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa Prof. Hubert Gijzen, the two

organisations are rallying development partners, international organizations, civil society organisations private sector in a Broad Coalition to ensure #LearningNeverStops.

The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in massive closure of schools, polytechnics, and universities affecting more than 1.5 billion learners and youth across the planet. School closures widen education inequalities and affect vulnerable children and youth disproportionately. We have a responsibility to ensure continuity, inclusion and equity for all learners.

The SADC Secretariat - UNESCO partnership will focus on among others making distance learning possible for all learners at all levels.

This also include supporting teachers and teacher educators through access and capacity building to use relevant technologies to facilitate and support distance learning. ~SADC



## PUBLIC CAUTIONED AGAINST MISUSE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

*Batswana have been cautioned against publishing misleading information with the intention to mislead others and cause fear.*

Botswana Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Commissioner Dipheko Motube said in an interview that they have already arrested four people for publicising misleading statements in accordance with Section 31 of the Emergency Powers Act.

He said such statements were malicious especially that they were from a source other than the Director of Health Services.

"Batswana need to pull together as a team and help Government to fight the spread of COVID-19 with honesty and more transparency," the Assistant Commissioner said. Motube explained that most of the misleading communication was done by people who were trying to

defeat Government efforts. Recently CNN reported that Facebook will start alerting users with messages in their News Feeds if they have engaged with harmful COVID-19 misinformation that the company has since removed. Some of the harmful misinformation Facebook has pulled down includes claims that drinking bleach can cure the coronavirus.

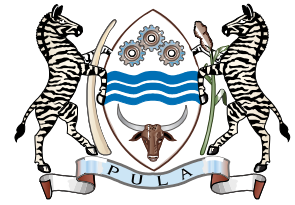
"For the same reason, events that defy government's guidance on social distancing aren't allowed on Facebook." Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg also said fact-checkers were adding warning labels to posts with misinformation. He said 95% of the people who saw the label did not go on to view the original content.

"Both of these sides of the equation, showing authoritative information and limiting the spread of misinformation, are incredibly important especially so during a health crisis," Zuckerberg said in the interview.

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**Editorial Advisor:** Pearl Ramokoka | **Editor:** Treasure Mothobi

**Content Producers:** Lorato Okaile | Donnell Kutlapye | Chandapiwa Baputaki | Fortune Ketlhaetse



Republic of Botswana

**APPLY ONLINE**

**www.gov.bw**



# COVID-19 E-PERMIT APPLICATION SYSTEM

## Applying for Permits for Exceptional Movement of Persons during the State of Public Emergency

### Stage 1 | Registration

- I. Log on to [www.gov.bw](http://www.gov.bw)
- II. Applicant's Details A (Personal details)
- III. Contact details of 2 household members  
(Fill out your contact details)

### Stage 2

- I. Click on Category of Permit (Fill appropriate Part)
- II. Essential Services (State)
- III. Transport of Essential Goods
- IV. Special Permit (Select reason)

### Stage 3

- I. Notification by sms if Approved
- II. Notification by sms if pending
- III. Notification by sms if not approved

**-NB APPLY THE NEXT DAY IF NOT APPROVED**

### Please Note

**I. The best Permit is to stay home and save lives**

### Contact

0800 600 111 | 0800 600 740 | 16649

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