



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

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@andBeyond

Day 167

P2.3M Set Aside To Cushion Freelance Tour Operators From Covid-19 Effects - Dr Koboto



The COVID-19 pandemic has caused substantial disturbances in the global economy with the tourism sector being one of the severely hit by the pandemic.

In an endeavour to immediately implement mitigating measures to support the tourism sector, Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation and Tourism has taken a position to cushion some components in the industry.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

29,355,527

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Republic of Botswana

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

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Giving an update on national television recently, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, Conservation and Tourism, Dr Oduetse Koboto says they have decided to give Freelance Tour Operators wage subsidy.

He said the Freelance Tour Operators who will benefit from the subsidy include mokoro polers, tour guides and chefs.

He explained that the decision to assist these group of people was taken basing on the fact that they could not benefit from the government wage subsidy at the beginning of lockdown in April this year as most of them were independent and not employed.

Dr Koboto revealed that a total amount of P 2.3 million has been set aside to financially assist them. The Permanent Secretary explained that the wage Subsidy is being disbursed since last week.

He noted that out of 528 people who registered for the subsidy since the announcement of

Dr Koboto



registration late July, only 304 have already benefited with each of them getting P1000 per month.

He indicated that a thorough assessment and vetting was done to select those who qualified for the subsidy.

Dr Koboto encouraged those who were still left behind to register with Botswana Guides Association (BOGA) as they are the one's coordinating the registration process.

Dr Koboto also warned Botswana to desist from claiming the wage subsidy unlawfully as it is

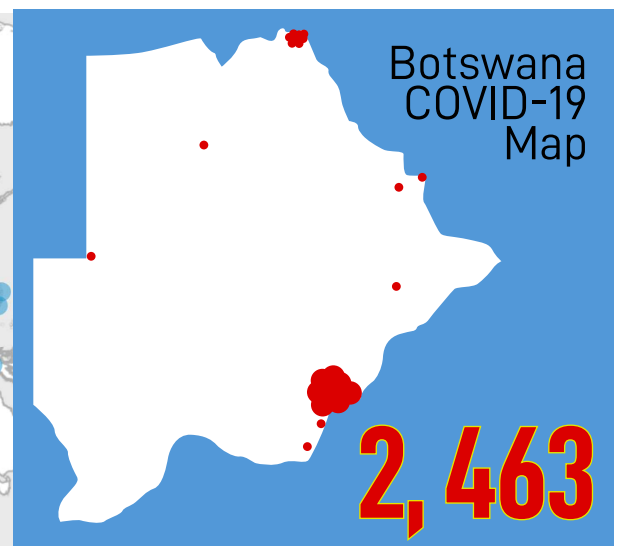
punishable by law. Dr Koboto said in addition the Federal Republic of Germany has availed funds amounting to P16 million to augment the wage subsidy as well as assist to compensate Community Based Organizations so that they run their services and develop the protected areas.

He said the beneficiaries will be assisted for a period of 6 months. Furthermore, Dr Koboto said part of the money will be used to support law enforcement agencies at the protected areas as well as help in infrastructure development.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 6,563,903	Egypt - 101,177	Zimbabwe - 7,531
South Africa - 650,749	China - 90,223	Malawi - 5,697
Spain - 603,167	Ethiopia - 64,786	Mozambique - 5,482
France - 425,648	Madagascar - 15,803	Eswatini - 5,104
UK - 373,565	Zambia - 13,819	Angola - 3,439
Italy - 289,990	Namibia - 9,818	Lesotho - 1,245



**Hon. Lelatisitswe**

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

QUESTION NO: 422

Assistant Minister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Sethomo Lelatisitswe says COVID-19 pandemic has impacted negatively on the welfare of various communities across the districts, nationally and internationally.

Hon Lelatisitswe however said the ministry had not received any increase in the COVID-19 related illnesses in the facilities in Mochudi East.

He mentioned that should such cases arise, patients will be referred to relevant sectors such as Social & Community Development for assistance as such issues requires multi-sectoral approach.

Hon Lelatisitswe said in an effort to improve access to health services the Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to evaluate the need for extension of hours of operation for some facilities including those in the Mochudi East.

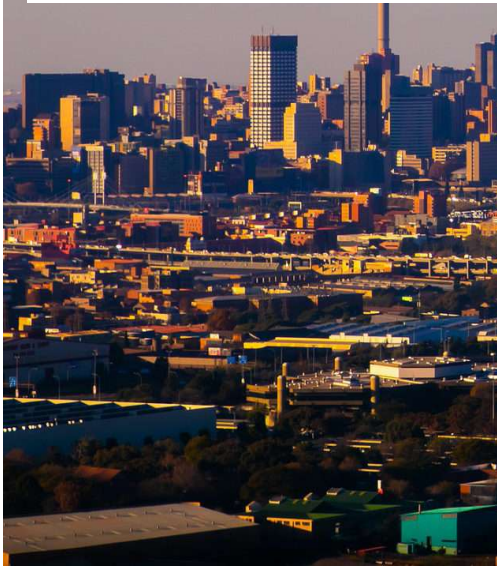
“To help deal with the underlying problems, which happen to cut right across Botswana, my ministry has introduced the concept of clustering; in order to optimize benefit from limited resources”, Explained Assistant Minister.

He said in the case of Mochudi East, there are five (5) clusters which are all covered by doctors on residency and outreach basis.

Hon Lelatisitswe noted that the initiative has greatly improved service delivery despite the limited number of doctors the ministry has.

The Assistant Minister was answering a parliamentary question from Member of Parliament for Mochudi East Constituency Honourable Mabuse Pule who asked if the Minister was aware that COVID-19 has worsened the situation as some health families' state of health and wellness had deteriorated as a result of various financial problems and what he is doing about this state of affairs.

Minister Mkhize Outlines the New Lockdown Restrictions RSA Government is Looking at.



South African Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize has confirmed that the Government is reconsidering a number of restrictions as the country looks at easing its lockdown.

"In previous statements relating to restrictions under the National State of Disaster, we committed to reviewing these periodically as we reassess the state of the South African epidemic and this is indeed what we have done," he said.

Having observed evidence that suggests a sustained decline in coronavirus transmissions, Mkhize said that the Department of Health have considered easing restrictions in these areas:

- ***The evening curfew;***
- ***The current limitations around the sale of alcohol;***
- ***Limitations around religious gatherings;***
- ***Certain travel restrictions.***



Hon Dr Mkhize

Mkhize said that these recommendations have been made as part of the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC), which will make final recommendations to Cabinet.

The Presidency office confirmed that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa chaired a virtual meeting on the President's Coordinating Council yesterday, which focused on a report from the NCCC on the country's response to the pandemic.

"Whatever decisions are made, it is important to emphasise that the

risk of spreading and contracting Covid-19 still remains and that non-pharmaceutical interventions remain important as we learn to co-exist with the coronavirus," Mkhize said.

Mkhize said that the number of detected cases countrywide continues to decline and that since 22 August the country has reported under 3,000 cases a day.

By comparison, at the height of the epidemic during the month of July, anything between 10,000 and 15,000 cases a day were being reported, he said.



Republic of Botswana

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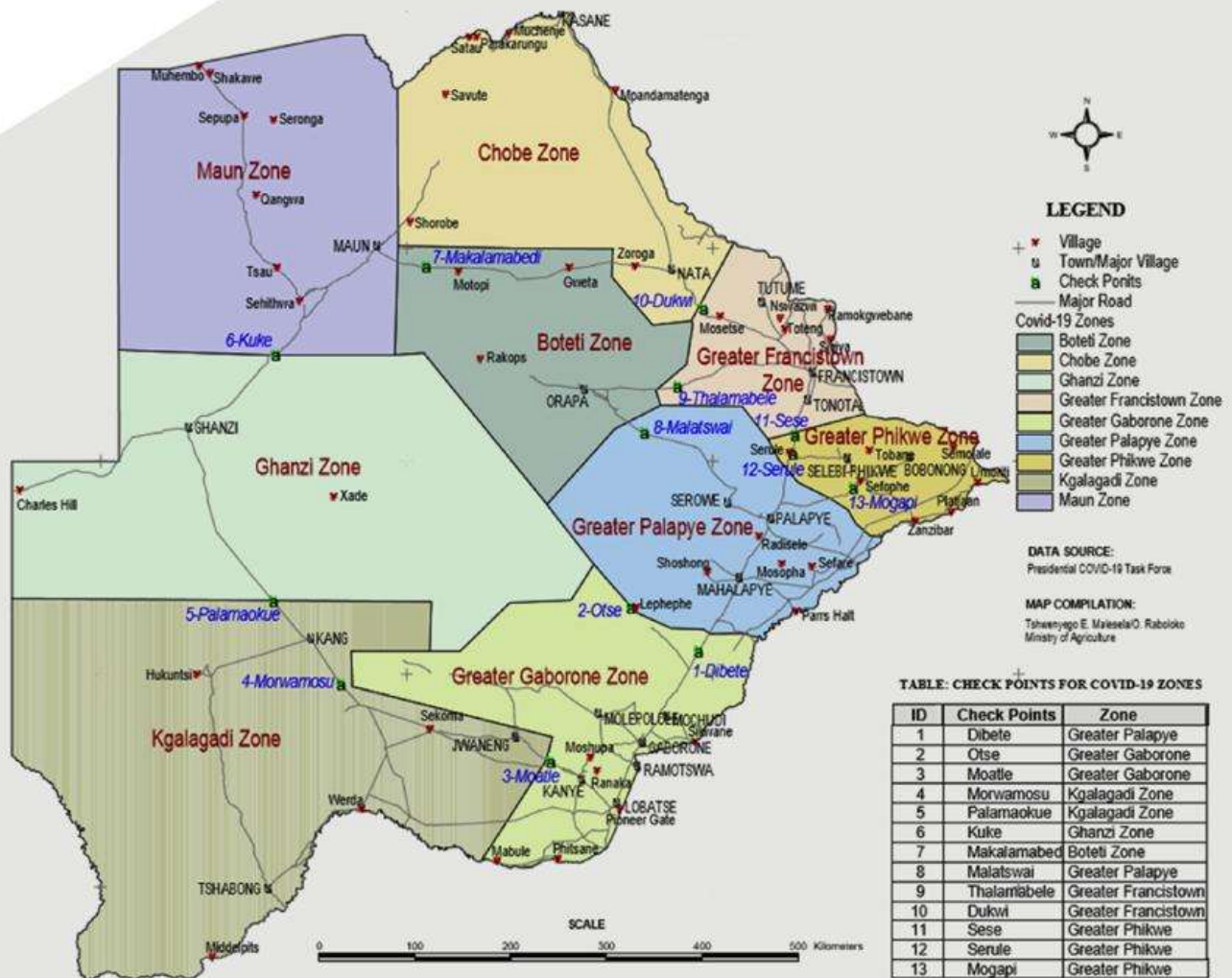
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COVID-19 ZONAL MAP



KNOW YOUR ZONES

Extreme Social Distancing ended on 20th May 2020 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