



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 122 | Friday, 18 September 2020

Day 169

**“The Task Force
Develop Strategies and
Mechanisms to Enhance
Response Against COVID-19”
~ Vice President**

Leaders of the House, His Honor The Vice President Slumber Tsogwane says Government of Botswana moved with speed to establish the COVID-19 Epidemic Preparedness and Response Team made up of Senior Officials.

He explained that the Presidential Task Force chaired by His Excellency the President has been established to oversee all activities related to preventative measures and rapid response to the pandemic. He said the coordination of the national response is done at the highest level of the Office of The President.

Continues on Page 2

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

29,984,402

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 17/09/20



COVID 19 CASE REPORT

14 September 2020

1441

Total Confirmed
Batswana Cases

804

Active Cases
(Batswana)

624

Recovered
Batswana

13

Deceased

104

New positive tests since 13 September 2020
(91 Batswana / 13 Foreign Nationals)

1,126

Transferred out

77,072

Border Tests

78,982

Local Tests

156,054

Total Tests

www.gov.bw



BWGovernment

BW
COVID 19
TASK FORCE
UPDATES

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.

From Page 1

His Honor the Vice President highlighted that His Excellency The President used his executive powers as provided under Section 47 of the Constitution to appoint the Task Force. He said the Task Force comprises among others Cabinet Ministers, Business Botswana, Public Sector Unions and Baruti. He stated that members of the Task Force were appointed from the field of Epidemiology, Medicine, Laboratory, Science, Communications and other fields.

The Vice President clarified the roles of the coordinating team, saying they develop strategies and mechanism to enhance the response against COVID-19. He said they provide guidance to the relevant stakeholders that are involved in the response.

He shared with parliamentarians that members of the Task Force receive a remuneration for their task force duties. "To date they have collectively been paid a total of P 2,316,986.40", explained the Vice President.

The Vice President elaborated to the effect that the COVID-19 Communications Team was set up and its members selected from various organizations both within

government, Parastatals and the Private sector. He highlighted that the Communications Team ensures effective and efficient communication across Government and the nation as whole.

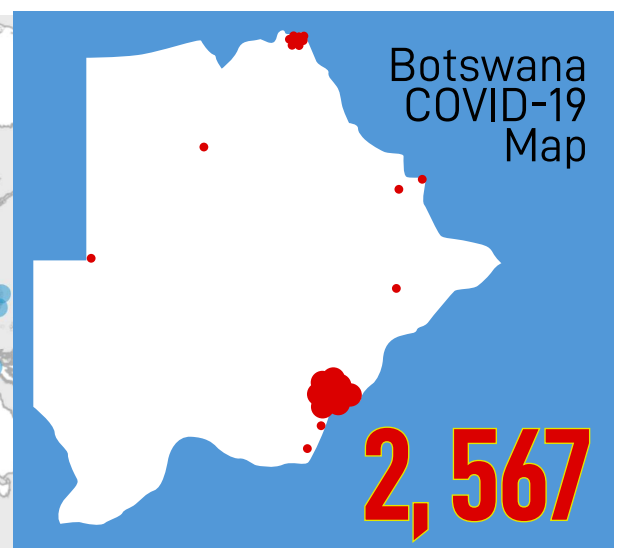
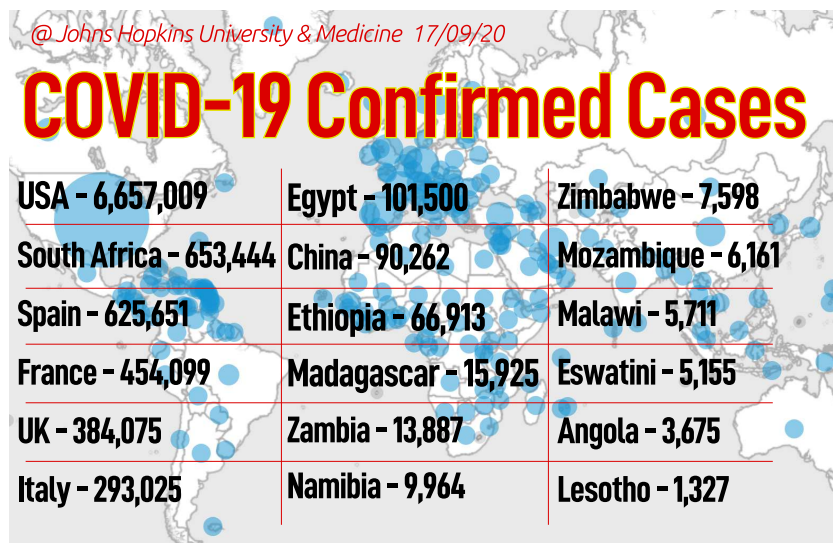
"The terms and conditions under which they were selected was guided primarily by the magnitude of the task associated with pandemic. Their focus is to provide technical support to the Botswana Government Communication and Information Service Office as well as to enhance implementation of communications strategies and campaigns of COVID-19," elaborated His Honor.

His Honor the Vice President was answering a question from the Leader of Opposition Hon Dumelang Saleshando who wanted to know if members of the Task Force receive any remuneration for their task force duties and if the answer is in the affirmative, to state how much each member has been paid to date.

He also wanted to appreciate if there has been a COVID-19 Communications Team set up and if so, to state how members of the team were selected and the terms and conditions under which they were selected.



Hon Saleshando



*Professor Mosepele*

COVID-19 POSITIVE CASES ON THE RISE

Presidential Covid-19 Task Force Deputy National Coordinator, Professor Mosepele Mosepele says COVID-19 positive cases are skyrocketing.

Giving a health update on COVID-19, Prof. Mosepele said in August the country had recorded an average of 20 cases a day whereas in September the situation is worsening with the country grappling with an average of more than 40 cases a day.

He regrettably reported two more COVID-19 related deaths which now bring the death toll to 13.

Prof. Mosepele said the speedily increasing cases affects the health service. He said health workers are unfavorably overwhelmed. He pointed out that what is also in the

spotlight is that the contact tracing team works overtime as they traverse the width and the breadth of the country in an endeavor to test contacts of positive cases.

An observation noted by the Deputy Coordinator is that some people who have flu symptoms continue working whereas they should be staying at home and seek medical attention.

He said once they get the medical attention they should get their sick offs which they should present upon returning to work.

He further said social distancing in the workplace is a concern, highlighting that some offices are crowded, which he said could lead to the spread of the virus.

Prof. Mosepele said another worrying

trend is the improper wearing of masks. He said people should ensure that they wear their masks properly at all times.

He expressed concern that some people wear masks properly while in their offices but fail to maintain social distancing while eating during lunch break which he said poses a risk.

Prof. Mosepele said he is worried as the country is going towards the independence holidays. He said the cases that may arise after independence might be high just like they were after President holidays.

He therefore urged individuals to take responsibility for their behavior and make sure that they abide by COVID-19 protocols.

South Africa says 12 million 'probably' had coronavirus

CAPE TOWN: *About 12 million people in South Africa have "probably" been infected with the coronavirus, but that startlingly high number has not caused a similarly high death rate and might indicate a widespread "level of immunity," the country's health minister says.*

More than 20% of South Africa's population of 58 million have had the virus at some point, Dr. Zweli Mkhize estimated this week. He cited studies that found the presence of coronavirus antibodies in blood samples taken from parts of the population. The findings have prompted the government to launch a national study, he said.

"South Africa has seen the surge receding, and thus raises the question of the level of immunity that may already be existing in society," he said. Other studies have indicated that up to 40% of the population might be immune to the virus, Mkhize said. Some South African experts suggest that Africa's most developed economy may be approaching herd immunity, but scientists believe at least 70-80% of a population needs to be immune before there's any effect. And with Covid-19 it's unclear how long that immunity might last.

With confirmed virus cases dropping significantly, President Cyril Ramaphosa on Wednesday evening announced that South Africa's borders will reopen as of Oct. 1, with visitors required to show negative coronavirus test results no older than 72 hours before departure. "Visitors will not be permitted from countries deemed at high risk," Ramaphosa said, not naming countries.

Ramaphosa also announced further relaxed restrictions on public gatherings, to a maximum of 250 people indoors and 500 outdoors. South Africa's number of confirmed virus cases have dropped in recent weeks after a peak in



late July that saw the country recording up to 15,000 cases daily, and raised fears that health services in some major cities might collapse. Official figures showed just 772 new cases on Tuesday.

South Africa has just over 650,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19, according to the government's latest official count, the eighth-highest caseload in the world. At its peak, South Africa was the fifth most affected country, behind the United States, India, Brazil and Russia, which all have much larger populations.

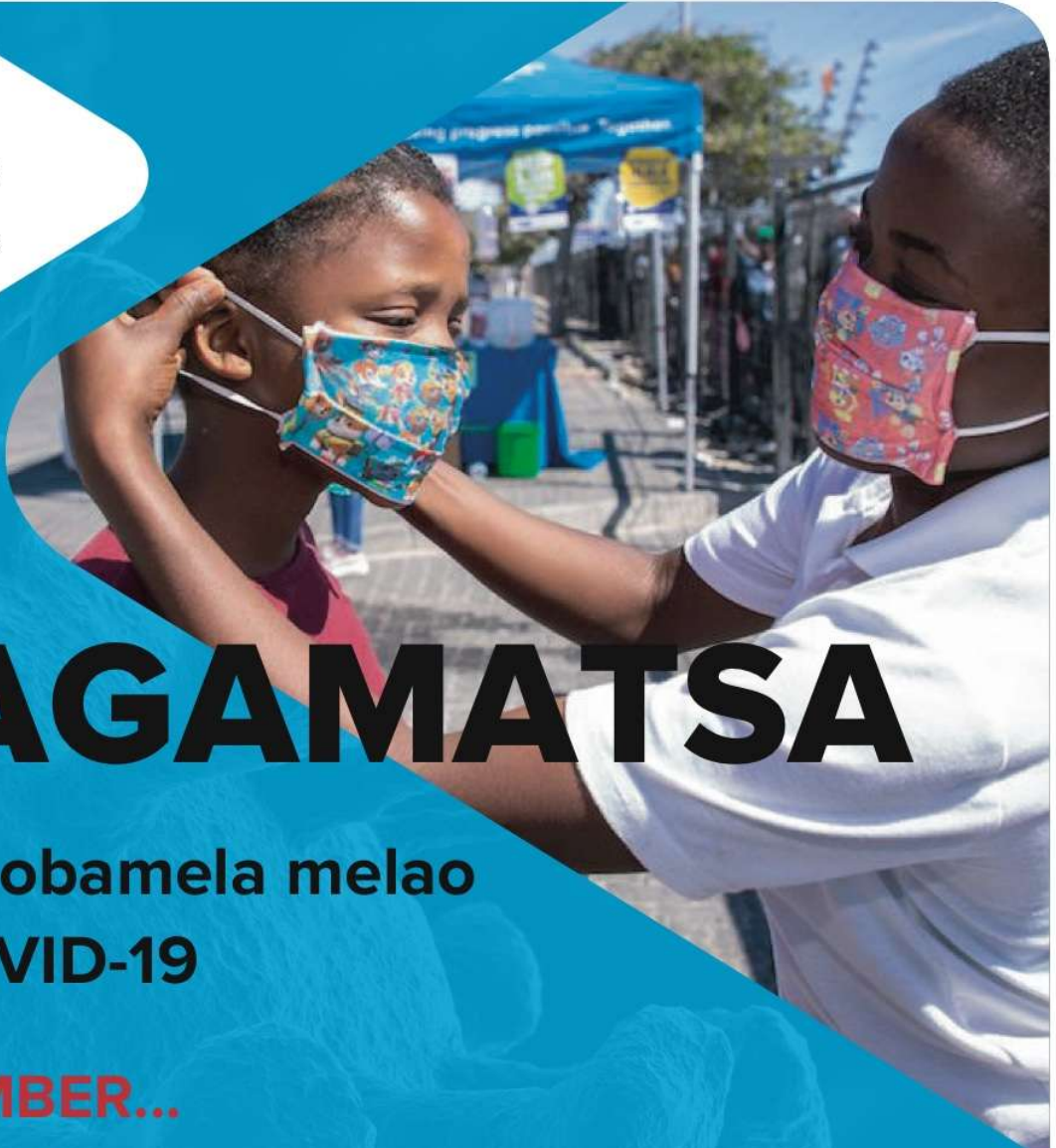
Experts have tried for months to figure out why South Africa's official death rate from Covid-19 is low - 15,641 people have died, according to government figures. There were fears at the start of the pandemic that poverty, crowded living conditions, restricted access to clean water and the high prevalence of tuberculosis and HIV would put South Africa, and Africa at large, in danger of millions of deaths.

So far, that hasn't happened. South Africa is by far the worst affected country in Africa with nearly half of the continent's 1.3 million confirmed cases. There have been 33,000 deaths from Covid-19 in the 54 countries in Africa, which has a population of 1.3 billion people.

Their death count is less than the number of people who have died in either the UK or Italy, and far less than the United States' 195,000 confirmed deaths. *Times of India*



Republic of Botswana



GAGAMATSA

**Ka go obamela melao
ya COVID-19**

REMEMBER...

To social distance
To Wear your mask
To Sanitise
To Register
To check your temperature

Own your space. Own your health!

www.gov.bw



BWGovernment

BW
COVID 19
TASK FORCE

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.



Republic of Botswana

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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Treasure Mothobi | Donnell Kutlapye | Fortune Ketlhaetse
National Emergency Operation Centre