



# PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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## VP applauds University Students' innovation

**I**n the midst of the global pandemic, Batswana are said to be capable of creation or innovation of products and services that can bring about the self-sustainability which is in the national Vision 2036.

His Honour the Vice President - Mr Slumber Tsogwane was speaking during his visit to Moshupa, Kanye, Jwaneng and Mabutsane recently.

Speaking during the meeting with the COVID-19 Teams, His Honor said University Students have demonstrated amazing talent, which if nurtured, could produce great entrepreneurs to run sustainable businesses that will add value to the country's economy.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

# 10,199,798

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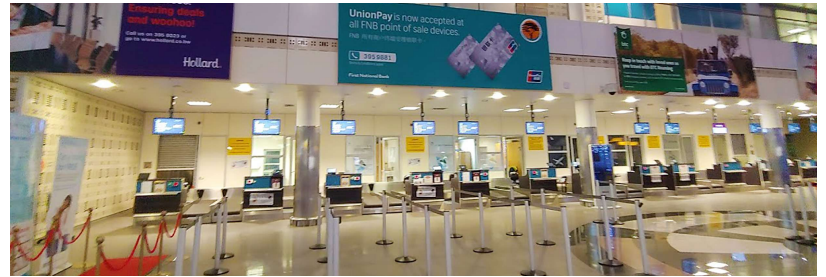
He said the cross border truck situation and dependency on other countries for food and other essentials has showed that Batswana should rise and take agriculture very seriously to produce for the country and even beyond.

Vice President said as much as the COVID-19 pandemic brought the country to an upheaval state, there were notable positive experiences gained such that in future, when calamities strike, Batswana will be better prepared to handle such tragedies.

While applauding the good work demonstrated by university Students, Mr Tsogwane said he needed to buttress the COVID-19 Task Force message of adhering to the guidelines and protocols of managing the spread of the virus.

"My Message to Batswana is that we are not out of the woods yet, since Covid-19 is still spreading and we must observe the Covid-19 protocols at all times since we do not have adequate resources to respond to the outbreak if it happens to get out of control" cautioned the Vice President.

His Honor toured some schools to appreciate the state there were in and mitigation measures that have been put in place by the District Teams.



## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO BOTSWANA ON THE CARDS

The aviation industry has been heavily hit by the coronavirus pandemic with many countries imposing entry bans, quarantines and other travel restrictions. The aviation sector has been one of the prime victims in terms of business impact.

Addressing members of the Media on Sunday, Presidential (COVID-19) Task Force Team Deputy National Coordinator Professor Mosepele Mosepele said on the issue of opening International skies to Botswana, the restrictions will be followed step by step. Professor Mosepele said travel bubbles with other countries has to be fluid so that coronavirus can be contained.

He said there should be an assessment on health safety levels in the country and the state of the disease in other countries before Botswana can allow international flights. Professor Mosepele explained that there is need to balance between the economy and the spread of the virus. "We will choose who we allow into the country based on their risk profile," he stated.

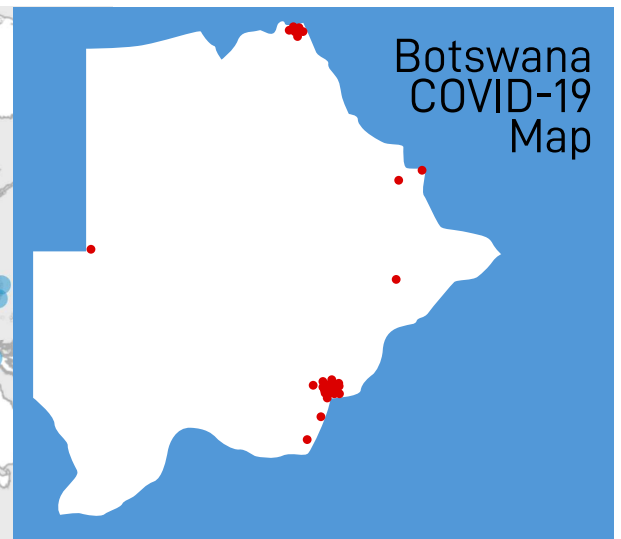
Professor Mosepele said Airlines would have to introduce measures such as protective gowns for airports personnel and mandatory temperature checks at airports amongst others. Currently citizens and residents are allowed into the country from other nations however upon arrival they will undergo a 14 day mandatory quarantine.

The first time air travel was blamed for the spread of disease was between 2002 and 2004 at the time of the SARS outbreak in China and south-east Asia.

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## COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

|                        |                    |                  |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| USA - 2,564,163        | China - 84,757     | Mozambique - 859 |
| UK - 313,467           | Egypt - 65,188     | Eswatini - 781   |
| Spain - 248,970        | Ethiopia - 5,846   | Zimbabwe - 567   |
| Italy - 240,436        | Madagascar - 2,138 | Angola - 267     |
| France - 199,476       | Zambia - 1,557     | Namibia - 183    |
| South Africa - 138,134 | Malawi - 1,146     | Lesotho - 27     |



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# DELAYS EXPECTED AMID PORTS OF ENTRY MANDATORY TESTING

**M**andatory testing for the coronavirus on all Botswana's ports of entry has created a traffic jam of trucks carrying goods into the country and other SADC countries as Botswana is a land linking country.

The pace of border tests of drivers for Covid-19 has seen a heavy truck pile up on designated areas where truckers wait for their results. This very important decision has left several drivers distressed, accusing the Ministry of Health and Wellness personnel for being slow to issue them with results.

The situation led to some requesting Botswana to introduce rapid tests to fast track the results of essential workers who are transporting essential goods and to those who providing essential services. However The Deputy National Coordinator of the Presidential Task Force Team Prof. Mosepele Mosepele highlighted that the rapid test kits have certain challenges.

The Deputy Coordinator said there are two types of rapid tests being the molecular and anti-body based. He said when these rapid tests were introduced, there were few mistakes identified. Professor

Mosepele said some countries reported false positive Covid-19 results, adding that these compelled countries to pause and evaluate the tests.

Professor Mosepele said the second test is the swabbing of the nose or the throat, where results can be produced within 45 minutes. He added that this technology can work in Botswana however the challenge has been that the company that manufactures the reagents to enable the test is based in the United States of America.

He said ever since the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, countries limit exportation of medicines and tests kits from their countries. Professor Mosepele gave an example about United States of America where it rations number of tests kits that can be exported to other countries, adding that even at some point Personal Protective Equipment and sanitizers were also limited.

Botswana introduced COVID-19 testing for all people entering the country at all point of entries after confirming an alarming number of imported cases of the coronavirus.

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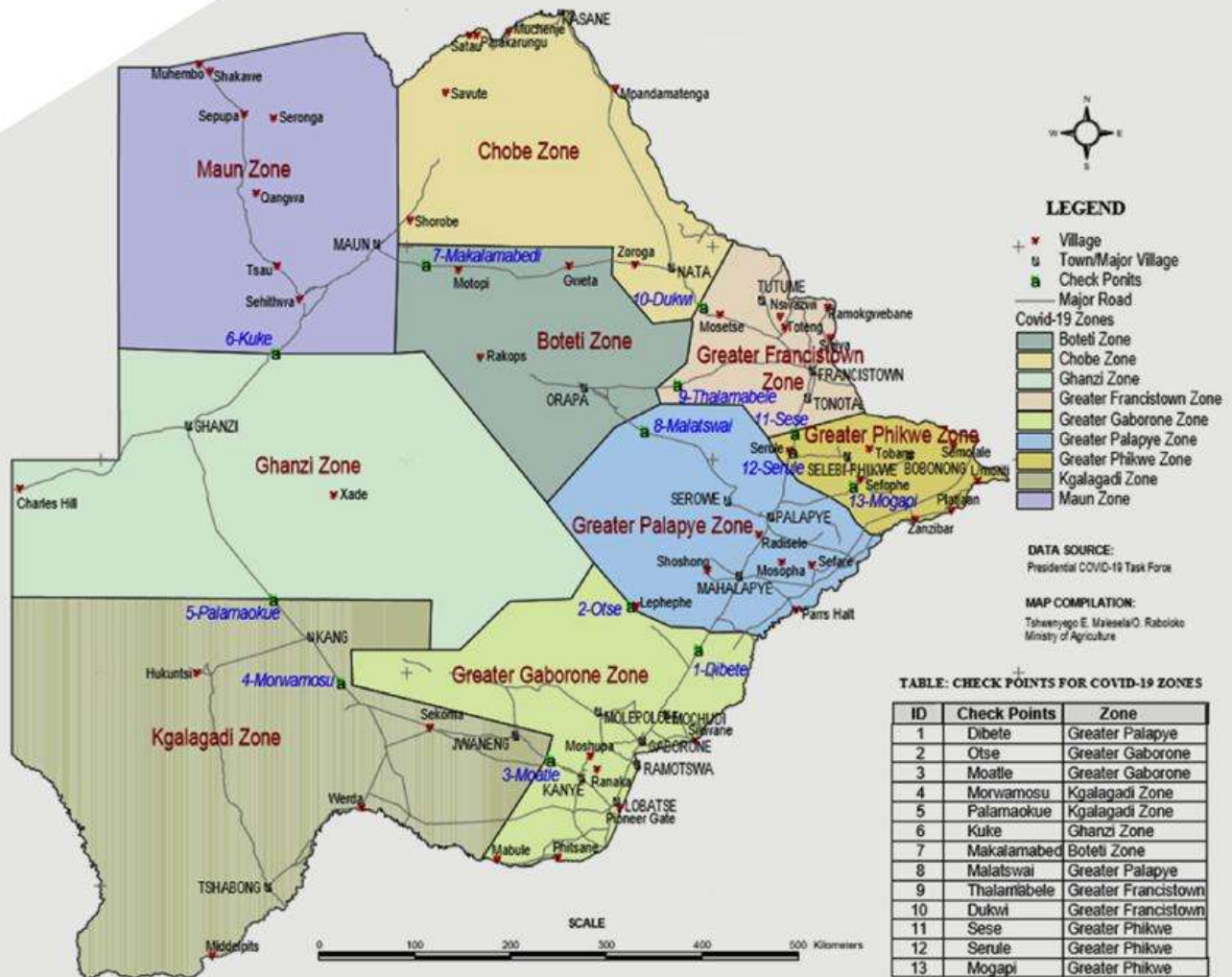
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Republic of Botswana

# 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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