

PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 65 | Wednesday, 01 July 2020



he City of Gaborone is experiencing an unprecedented shortage of fuel which has resulted in long queues at petrol stations.

The fuel shortage has disrupted businesses and the City's daily activities which can negatively affect the economy of the country.

Minister for Mineral Resources, Green Technology and Energy Security, Honourable Lefhoko Moagi says government has tapped into its strategic fuel reserves to arrest the situation.

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COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

10,375,897

(a) Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 30/06/20





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He explained that fuel companies did not have enough on their reserve tanks. He said Government has reserve storage for extra ordinary days that can avert the situation for seven days for commercial and public service stations.

He indicated that if the tanks were to be for emergencies only, it could last for 28 days. He said Government made a decision to draw from the reserve tanks to ease the current shortage of fuel. "Such help has started arriving at the service stations," he said. He added that the situation will soon be better.

Minister Moagi revealed that the situation in

the country does not mean that there is fuel shortage at the sources where the country gets its fuel. He indicated that there was a situation where refineries were being repaired in South Africa which has since stabilized.

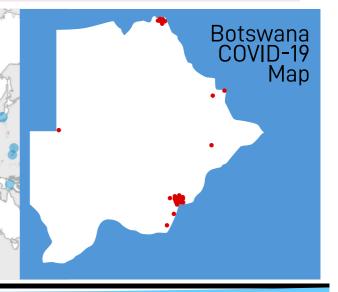
Minister Moagi stated that 107 trucks are currently in South Africa to restock. He said they have started buying fuel from Mozambique and Namibia so as to avoid putting all eggs in one basket.

Minister Moagi pleaded with residents of the capital city to remain calm and requested that they should desist from panic-buying.

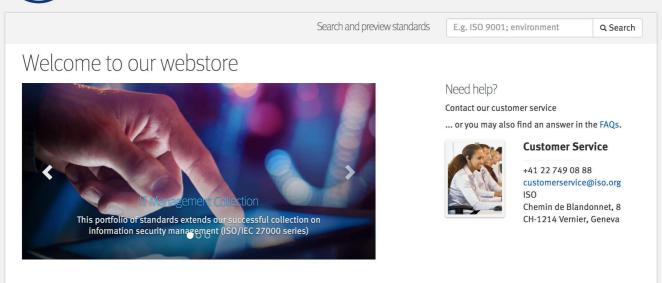
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 30/06/20

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases

USA - 2,618,480	China - 84,782	Mozambique - 889
UK - 314,159	Egypt - 66,754	Eswatini - 812
Spain - 249,271	Ethiopia - 5,846	Zimbabwe - 574
Italy - 240,578	Madagascar - 2,214	Angola – 284
France - 202,063	Zambia - 1,568	Namibia - 203
South Africa - 144,264	Malawi - 1,224	Lesotho - 27







BOTSWANA BUREAU OF STANDARDS GIVES LOCAL LABS A THUMBS UP.

otswana Bureau of Standards (BOBS) Lab Services & Industrial Meteorology Manager Mr Tebogo Kajane says BOBS has been working around the clock during this pandemic to ensure that Covid-19 tests results are accurate, reliable, timeliness and meeting World Health Organisation standards.

When briefing members of the media yesterday, Mr Kajane said BOBS helped to test and calibrate the government National Health Lab and Harvard Aids Institute Lab to make sure that they produce quality COVID-19 results.

He said he is quite confident that all results that were produced from these two labs meet the set WHO standards. He said they also made sure that the testing room at NHL is of high standard which can extract aerosols from the testing facility. He said this was meant to protect the lab personnel when analysing the tests.

Mr Kajane further said they calibrated lab equipment at government health facilities such as National TB Lab and HIV/AIDS Reference Labs. Mr Kajane said BOBS will continue to calibrate equipment of the entire health sector to make sure that the equipment is of good quality which will in turn produce quality results that will benefit Batswana.

He said the whole essence of calibration is to make sure that the equipment is of the desired quality that will produce the correct results. He emphasized that the use of accurate clinical laboratory test results in diagnostic decision making is an integral part which will assist the Presidential Task Force Team to make informed decisions.

For his part, BOBS Marketing and Communications Manager Mr Peter Mpete said only alcohol sanitizers are allowed in Botswana as they can exterminate contaminants.

He said they have attended to 352 samples of alcohol based sanitizers from 185 companies. Out of these, 284 have already been tested of which 27 passed the test while the rest have been returned with recommendations.



Media Release

30 June 2020

THE COMPOSITION OF THE COVID-19 TASK FORCE

The Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 ("Task Force") has in recent days received enquiries from some quarters of the media on its composition. In the interest of transparency, the Coordinator of the Presidential Task Force, Dr. Kereng Masupu, responded to the media enquiry. However, with the public being the main stakeholder in the fight against COVID-19, the Task Force is of the view that it is also appropriate to share the response with it directly. Therefore, the Task Forces' response is as follows:

The Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 was constituted by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Botswana Dr. Mokgweetsi E.K. Masisi on 16 March 2020) on urgency to coordinate efforts aimed at combating the pandemic in the country. As you are aware, Botswana is still under a state of emergency because of COVID-19, and it is in this context that the Task Force, which comprises professionals of various experience and capabilities, was assembled on recommendation having considered their track records.

For the record, and without singling out individuals, as the Task Force operates as a cohesive unit, it comprises amongst others, standing and adhoc members whose expertise includes medical experts in clinical medicine/infectious diseases/clinical & analytical ,epidemiology; statisticians, actuarial scientists & disease modelling experts; medical laboratory scientists; information technology experts; operations personnel, communications experts, procurement specialists administrators among others. Because the Ministry of Health & Wellness is the leading implementing arm of government (among all other government functions), Task Force experts work with experts and senior officials at MOHW in order to achieve disease management and control. The composition of the members often changes and this is dictated by COVID-19 situation analysis.

Given that the Task Force is not a permanent structure, all the above professionals are either employed by their respective organisations or are running private enterprises. It is important to reiterate that this is in addition to them offering their services to the Task Force, whose work is fluid and requires daily involvement often with long hours. Related to this, if there are any remuneration arrangements involving members of the Task Force, they are between them and the entity.

In conclusion, the Task Force wishes to indicate that focus by all stakeholders should be on the matter at hand, which is to defeat the coronavirus. Members of the Task Force are fully committed to helping achieve this objective for as long as the pandemic is considered a threat to the survival of the Republic of Botswana.

Thank you.

Dr. Kereng MasupuCoordinator - Presidential
Covid-19 Task Force



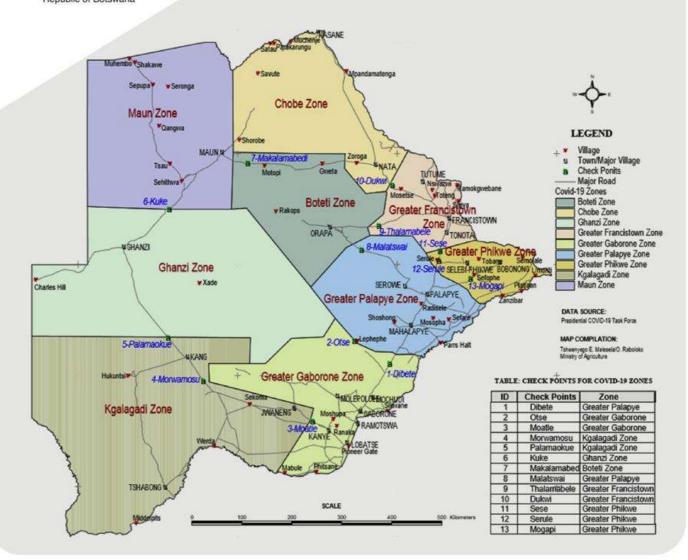


BWGovernment





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 survellance 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



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.









