



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 68 | Monday, 06 July 2020

Day 95

DOCTORS' RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With Prof. Ramogola-Masire/Dr Tlale/Dr Gasemotse

With the Covid-19 having initially started in Wuhan, the People's Republic of China, the entire world was watching as the disease unfolded and affected more countries.

The countries that were affected later by the deadly virus had ample time to learn from those who managed the condition first. Continues on Page 2

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

11,229,667

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 05/07/20

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.



Prof. Ramogola-Masire



Dr Tlale



Dr Gasemotse

From Page 1

They had the time to perfect the management unlike those who were first hit. In an interview with Botswana Television last week, the Deputy Dean at Faculty of Medicine at the University of Botswana, Professor Doreen Ramogola-Masire said Botswana local clinicians are lucky because the Covid-19 hit our shores about five months after it first hit China. She said this gave us ample time to prepare for Covid-19 especially by learning from countries which battled with Covid-19 first.

She however said preparation will never end because disease dynamics change with time hence one need to acquaint with latest information from time to time. Prof. Ramogola-Masire said there are things that have been done well and those that still need to be improved, adding that doctors are not invincible.

Prof. Ramogola-Masire said even though Botswana Covid-19 numbers are increasing, the country's health system is not yet overwhelmed. She said to have locally graduated doctors, it will improve the situation by being able to consult in Setswana.

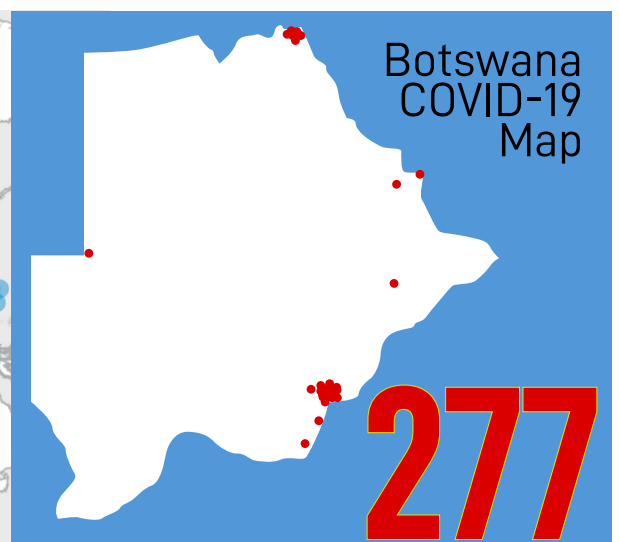
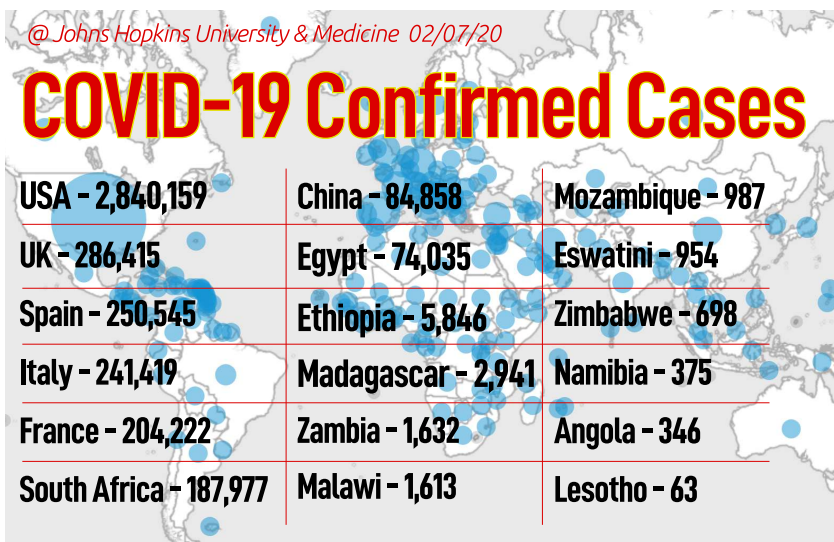
She further said the University of Botswana has another batch of doctors who are ready to go into the internship to assist if there is a need.

She said ever since the inception of the School of Medicine about 200 doctors graduated from the program.

For his part, Public Health Specialist Dr Lebapotswe Tlale says the country has to do with what it has to fight the pandemic. He said they are always in contact with those they studied with abroad to share ideas on dealing with the pandemic. He said in order for a doctor to be prepared, they should have safety equipment. Dr Tlale said the preparedness plan has an element of what to do to prevent, what happens when the disease is here as well as the recovery phase.

When giving the Psychiatrist insight, Dr Moetapele Gasemotse said health professionals are also vulnerable to get the same disease they attempt to treat, adding that preparations are never enough. He said one has to keep on auditing the management of the condition in order to improve.

He however said one will wonder why Botswana's Covid-19 positive cases are low. He said of paramount importance is that doctors sacrifice a lot because they leave their families sometimes outside the country to join the fight against Covid-19.



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.

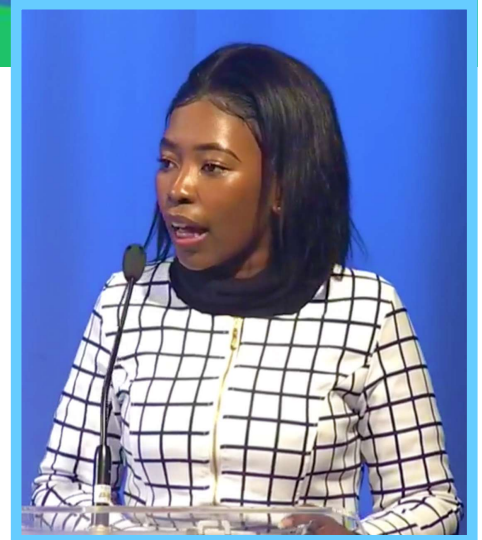
YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

Doctors E-Consult get connected to your doctor at your finger tips



f Doctors E-Consult @Doctors E-Consult @Doctors E-Consult

4th Industrial Revolution leads to Doctors consulting patients online.



Ms Loatile Nkala

The Director of Doctors E-Consult Ms Loatile Nkala has urged the youth to embrace the 4th industrial revolution.

When briefing members of the media about their Covid-19 health interventions over the weekend, Ms Nkala said the youth should venture into the e-technology in order to improve their lives.

The Director said they came up with the application after they realized that quite a number of people were not able to see health professionals during the first lock down due to travel restrictions.

She said the initiative started when Botswana Innovation Hub made a call for proposals to come up with new innovations to combat Covis-19. She said their proposals was one of the

five that were selected. Ms Nkala said their new adventure application allows doctors to consult patients online.

Ms Nkala said the whole aim of their application was to create an online platform accessible to all leading health professionals, adding that this will improve access to healthcare. She further said by using this application there will be reduction of congestion at health facilities.

She said patients will be able to choose a doctor of their choice before proceeding with the live chat, adding that a prescription will be uploaded and get medicines at the pharmacy.

Ms Nkala said the application which will be

launched officially in two months, will cater for patients who use various medical aid schemes.

Healthcare systems worldwide have had to change the way they manage patients using methods that do not rely on in-person services. E-technology services is envisaged to provide necessary care to patients while minimizing the transmission risk



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.

Youth To Normalize Counselling Through E-technology

E - Technology services has been described as a public health mitigation strategy that can be used during the scourge of COVID -19 by increasing social distancing.

COVID -19 affected people differently and one of the major challenges is psychological factor. The use of e-technology counselling has since been identified as a key factor that can address the issue.

As mental health has always been stigmatized the world over. Even in Botswana people are not free to seek services of a counsellor hence some end up committing suicide or horrendous crimes. As a results of this, some youth have made a niche in the psychosocial support area by creating an application that one will use to get counselling services in their personal space especially in the era of COVID-19.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of First Aid Counselling Mr Kesego Mosime, says there is a need for counselling services as evidenced by a lot of people who suffer from depression due to loss of income because of various issues associated



Ms Shathiso Letsholo

with COVID-19. Mr Mosime said his company through the use of the digital counselling platform will address counselling issues instantly.

He said they have a self-help technic where someone who needs counselling can use educational and counselling content, Mr Mosime said they also have a tele-counselling where one can dial a counsellor at any given time, adding that they also have an online social groups where those in need interact with those who have gone through the same issues.

The CEO said people can access their services conveniently regardless of the type of the phone they use. He said distance is no longer a barrier to get counselling therefore urged Batswana to use their e-service in large numbers.

For her part, First Aid Counselling



Mr Kesego Mosime

Chief Operating Officer Ms Shatiso Letsholo, they want to normalize counselling just like someone who will go to see a doctor when they are not well. She said the stigma that comes with mental health prevent people from getting proper counselling that will improve their lives.

Ms Letsholo said they carried out a survey that indicated that people did not know any online counselling service while others new where to go when they are faced with challenges but had various reasons why they did not seek such services.

She however said some did not access the services because of distance, finances, transport or even get the service at the time of need like at night or weekend where majority of counselling services are closed. Ms Letsholo said her company is there to bridge this gap.



**I RECEIVED HELP JUST
IN TIME**

| Convenient | Secure | Professional | Worldwide |

THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

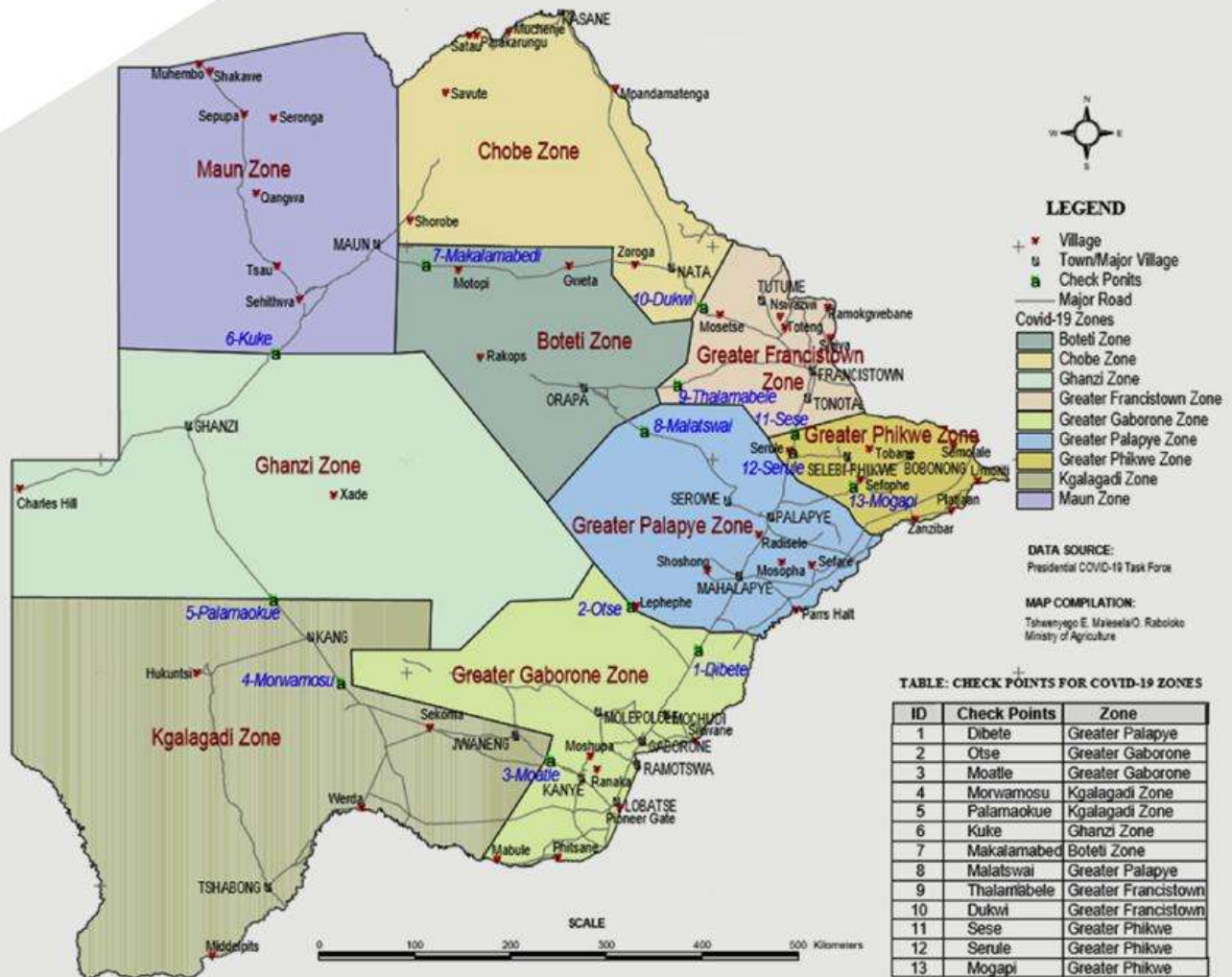
Tollfree: 0800 600 111 | Telephone: 369 8337 | E-mail: neoc@gov.bw

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 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

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Treasure Mothobi

Content Producers: Lorato Okaile | Donnell Kutlape | Chandapiwa Baputaki | Fortune Ketlhaetse



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.



www.gov.bw



BWGovernment

BW
COVID 19
TASK FORCE
U P D A T E S