

PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 76 | Thursday, 16 July 2020



ood distribution under Covid-19 Food Relief Response has been discontinued. The food basket was meant to assist those in need, particularly those financially affected by the COVID-19 Extreme Social Distancing regulations that was instituted to the country as a measure to contain the spread of the Virus.

Briefing the Media recently COVID-19 Food Relief Response Coordinator Mr Gabriel Seeletso said a total of 429 255 Continues on Page 2

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

13,405,694

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Food Distribution under Covid-19 Food Relief Response discontinued. - Gabriel Seeletso

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households benefited from both the funds and donations in kind out of the 537 466 households that were assessed.

He said funds amounting to a total of P 350, 870 087.00 was disbursed to the Ministry for the programme to cover the cost of the relief programme. He said the money was dispatched in two forms.

Firstly the initial provision of P150 870 087.00 was for distribution of food packages and also for payments of more staff that was temporarily employed to fast track provision of food packages to households and transportation. As the Ministry realized that more people needed assistance they requested an additional funds which a disbursement of P 200 000 000.00 was granted to the Ministry and assisted the programme accordingly.

Mr Seeletso revealed that food basket distribution was tainted by crisis in many councils countrywide. He said councils are expected to submit end of activity report which will detail all funds disbursed and challenges encountered. His said the end of activity report will assist Local Government and Rural development Minister to account before



Cabinet on the money used on the food relief initiative.

He added that final accounts of the programme are being prepared by the respective Councils to which the funds were disbursed to and auditing of the same will follow without delay. "Any outstanding balances will be dealt with accordingly" narrated Mr Seeletso.

Minister Eric Molale had earlier said His Ministry tendered advice to His Excellency the President through Cabinet, to which the President directed that food distribution under Covid-19 Food Relief Response be discontinued.

However Honourable Molale pointed out that destitution programmes will continue unhindered.

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 15/07/20 Botswana **COVID-19 Confirmed Cases** Map China - 85,245 USA - 3,465,031 Eswatini - 1,434 Egypt - 83,930 **South Africa - 298.292** Mozambique - 1,330 UK - 293,469 Ethiopia - 7,969 Zimbabwe - 1,064 Madagascar - 5,605 Namibia - 960 Spain - 257,494 Malawi - 2,497 Italy - 243,506 Angola - 541 Zambia - 1,895 Lesotho - 256 France - 210,568

Hon Serame Commends Liquor Traders



inister of Investment, Trade and Industry Hon Peggy Serame has applauded liquor trading companies for adhering to general COVID19 protocols.

Hon. Serame was speaking during a ceremony to receive on behalf of bar owners the donation of personal protective equipment being 1500 Masks, Sanitizers and COVID19 posters by the Botswana Alcohol Industry Association.

"I am informed that this donation is to ensure continued trading, facilitate compliance to the COVID19 protocols and overall awareness," said Ms Serame, adding that during the initial lockdown, Government was worried if bar owners and their customers would be able to comply.

However she said law enforcement and the Ministry officials have been closely monitoring the situation following the relaxation of the regulations.



Liquor traders



"There has been general compliance and adherence to the protocols, save for a few incidents reported. A few incidents can't tarnish the majority who are trying their best in resuscitating the industry under these uncertain and challenging circumstances," she said.

Botswana Alcohol and Industry Association Chairman Mr Mothusi Molokomme said their members are strictly bound to adhere to all regulations that guide their operations. He said the Association strives to ensure that their responsibility within the liquor trade extends beyond the buying and selling of our products.

The Chairman indicated that they have launched a robust awareness campaign as BAIA, their partners within the Liquor value chain, with advertisements aimed at encouraging all COVID-19 health protocols - from social distancing, mask wearing to drinking responsibly at home.

"I am happy to see from various reports that the majority of consumers are adhering strictly to these measures," he said.

Lifting of Restrictions for Arts and Entertainment

As Botswana continues to ease coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions to ensure that many sector of the economy can reopen and operate in a way that does not compromise the health of customers and the nation, His Excellency the President Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi in accordance with regulation 30G of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020, has authorised the opening of the arts and entertainment facilities.

The coronavirus pandemic outbreak continues to disrupt the entertainment industry worldwide and Botswana is no exception. The virus brought about panic and qualms in the entertainment industry as some major events like Hamptons Jazz Festival, Selibe Phikwe Toyota 1000km Desert race, Khawa Dune challenge among others were either cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

(a)the opening of the following arts and entertainment facilities will be as follows;

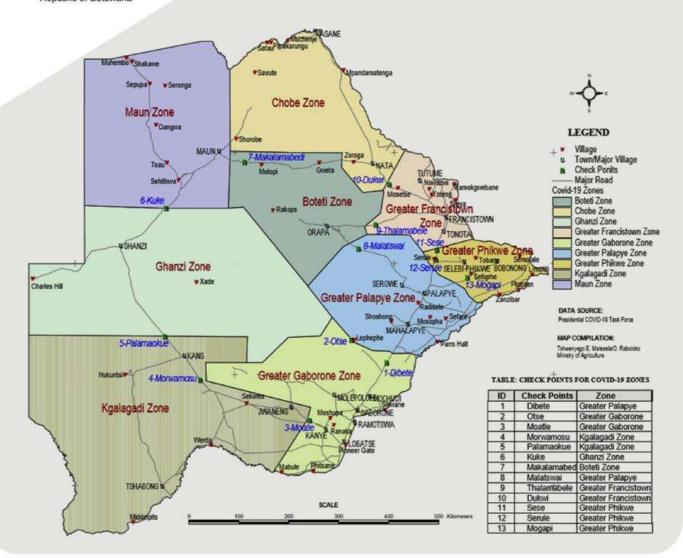
- (i) art galleries,
- (ii) theatres,
- (iii) amphitheaters,
- (iv) halls and conference facilities, cinemas,
- (v) cinemas
- (vi) recording studios
- (vii) television, and
- (viii) (vi) recording studios, (vii) television, and (viii) any other venue or facility where an event may be held; and
- (b) the gathering for preparations of arts and entertainment activities listed below -
- (i) exhibitions, (ii) drama, (iii) disc jockeys, (iv) jazz, (v) poetry, (vi) comedy, (vii) choral (quartet), (viii) traditional song and dance, and (ix) traditional instruments.

An arts and entertainment host may operate where he or she has satisfied the Director of Health Services, or any person authorised by the Director that he or she is able to comply with the directions for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 issued by the Director of Health Services as published in the Government Gazette, that -

- (a) all persons in attendance of an arts and entertainment activity and facility, shall -
- (i) not exceed 75, persons excluding the performers at facilities, (ii) not exceed 75, persons at an activity, (iii) be provided by the host with clean water and soap to wash their hands or with hand sanitizer, and (iv) wear a cloth face mask or homemade item that covers the nose and mouth or another appropriate item that covers the nose and mouth, and (vi) observe the social distancing requirements of being at least two metres apart from each other,
- (b) daily disinfection of premises where arts and entertainment are held is carried out, under the supervision of the Director,
- (c) observe a minimum of a 30 minutes break every 2 hours during an activity or event to allow for ventilation of the facilities,
- (d) arts and entertainment premises, shall be closed, upon direction of the Director, where there is a reasonable suspicion that a person who has had accessed premises has come into contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 or that a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 has had access to the premises,
- (e) the checking of body temperature of all persons in attendance of an arts and entertainment facility is carried out by the host, and where a person's body temperature is 37.4 degrees Celsius and above, such person shall not be allowed to access the meeting premises and the person shall be referred to the Director,
- (f) an arts and entertainment facility host shall, for purposes of contact tracing, maintain a register containing the personal details and contact details of all persons accessing the premises, and
- (g) the register referred to in paragraph (f) shall be open for inspection by the Director of Health Services for the purposes of contact tracing, and shall be open for inspection by a law enforcement officer for investigation of an offence under the Regulations.



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 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



CORONAVIRUS IS STILL A SERIOUS THREAT!

FROM"I" TO "US"...

Team building means marching in step. Let US all:

- · Sanitise.
- Maintain social distancing.
- · Wear masks.
- Remember to bSafe. Use the app.

Own your space. Own your health!









