

PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

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GREATER GABORONE ZONE BACK UNDER LOCKDOWN

inister of Health and Wellness, Honourable Dr Lemogang Kwape last night announced a two (2) week Greater Gaborone lockdown to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The lockdown came into effect at midnight. The government's decision mean that Greater Gaborone Zone is now closed except for essential services personnel.

Continues on Page 2



From Page 1

"I now regret to inform you that the situation has worsened in the last 24hours. Botswana has recorded 30 new positive cases of COVID-19, with a majority of the cases emanating from schools in the Greater Gaborone Zone.

This unprecedented spike of new cases undoubtedly means that there is local transmission of the coronavirus in Botswana, particularly in the Greater Gaborone Zone" Dr Kwape's statement.

Honourable Kwape said the contact tracing exercise that has been ongoing for the past few days has revealed that the nature of the spread is becoming more and more complex, rendering efforts of containment more challenging.

The Minister said as the country commenced the phased unlocking approach in May, the Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 cautioned that transitioning out of lockdown would necessitate a gradual

approach to enable the country to respond expeditiously should an outbreak occur.

He said the calculated gradual unlocking process aided the country's objective to balance the fight against COVID-19 with restarting the economy in the utmost disciplined fashion and vigilance.

During the course of this week, the disease took an unexpected turn. "This, now requires that we place the Greater Gaborone Zone under lockdown for a minimum period of two weeks to enable our containment efforts to take hold" said the Minister.

"It is on this note, fellow Batswana, that with the advice of the Presidential COVID-19 Taskforce, we have made a decision to lockdown Greater Gaborone from Midnight tonight", noted Minister Kwape.

Minister's announcement means there will be no movement within the Greater Gaborone Zone without a movement permit, the online permit for Essential Services will be activated, and movement to and from Greater Gaborone will be void with immediate effect.

For greater efficiency, those holding movement permits to Greater Gaborone will be allowed to return, while those who are in the Greater Gaborone Zone will not be allowed to leave without an essential services permit.

Honourable Kwape urged the nation to observe all COVID-19 protocols to prevent more new cases.



C#VID 19

Map

Botswana





LEADER OF THE HOUSE BRIEFS LEGISLATORS ON COVID-19 STATUS IN BOTSWANA

OVID-19 cases among Botswana citizens and residents continues to rise exponentially. From July 13th to July 26th, 2020, positive cases jumped from 70 to 140 and also recorded a second death as a result of COVID-19.

When briefing members of the National Assembly on the current status of covid-19 in Botswana, His Honour the Vice President Slumber Tsogwane said the Presidential Task Team gave an update regarding the status of COVID-19 in Botswana. He said the figures reflect an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases in Botswana.

The Vice President said key lessons emanating from the Task Team's update revealed non-compliance to COVID-19 protocols leading to challenges in tracing those that may have had contact with suspected cases.

Another hurdle stated by Mr Tsogwane was that of border jumping by some, including Batswana, to high risk countries, despite the existence of approved points of entry such as Ramatlabama border and others.

"Local truck drivers who on their return to Botswana, fail to undergo the mandatory quarantine, thereby endangering their families and other members of the public with whom they regularly interact, either professionally or socially," stated the Vice President.

He said in view of what has been reported, Botswana is more likely to experience an exponential increase in local transmission of COVID-19 cases, relative to previous cases where 11 cases were reported in Mogoditshane within a space of two days alone.

The Vice President implored the nation to religiously adhere to the laid down COVID-19 Regulations and protocols.

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide 17,130,295

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 30/07/20

Covid-19: 'Mass fatalities' emergency morgue opens in Cape Town

An emergency mass-morgue to hold hundreds of bodies is up and running in the Western Cape. The urgent construction was announced on 25 June - when the Covid-19 peak was forecast to hit in early July.

The site was designed to refrigerate up to 770 bodies at a time, in the Tygerberg Hospital precinct, where a large field hospital has also been built.

On Tuesday, the Western Cape Department of Health confirmed to News24 that the mass-morgue was now "operational" and currently held several who had died of Covid-19.

"The mass fatality centre consists of 12 containers on site and is connected to three-phase power. "It currently has 576 racking space and, once the remaining racks are delivered, will have a total storage capacity of 624 spaces," said spokesperson Mark van der Heever.

"The facility is fully operational and has received nine

cases to date and assists in scientific identifications where required, issuing the cause of death certificates and offers bereavement counselling to those families that visit the centre.

"The facility currently has three deceased in storage".

The Tygerberg Hospital complex and University of Stellenbosch medical school campus already hosts a large temporary field hospital the first emergency infrastructure erected by the Western Cape Government.

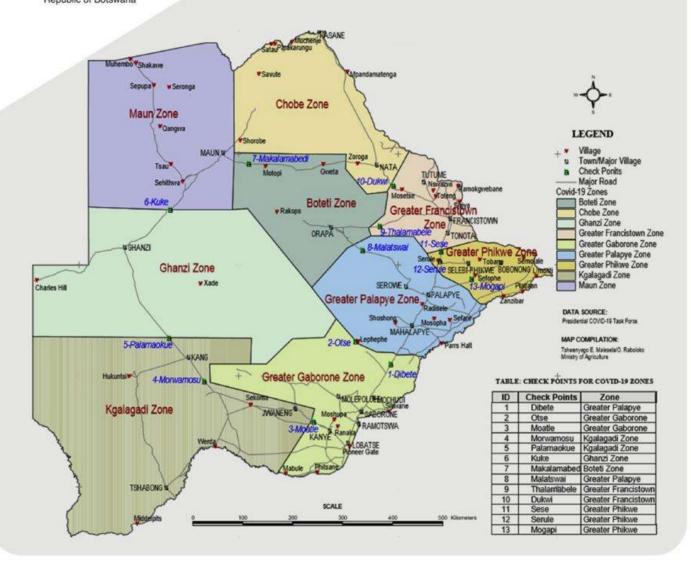
This was followed by the conversion of the Cape Town International Convention Centre into the "Hospital of Hope".

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde this week announced a total of R3.05 billion had been allocated to the fight against Covid-19 in the Western Cape including R1.8 billion to pay for temporary field hospitals, equipment and infrastructure. News 24





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