



PRESIDENTIAL (COVID-19) TASK FORCE BULLETIN

COVID-19 | STATE OF EMERGENCY

Issue 99 | Tuesday, 18 August 2020

Day 138

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON RELIGION

~ BISHOP BELEME

Coronavirus has obstructed religion in innumerable ways, including the cancellation of the worship services, bible studies, closure of Sunday schools and mainly cancellation of pilgrimages such as Easter observances and Ascension Day festivals for Christians.

Botswana Council of Churches President, Bishop Metlhayotlhe Beleme says COVID-19 has negatively affected followers of different faiths all over the world. *Continues on Page 2*

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases worldwide

21,739,501

@ Johns Hopkins University & Medicine 17/08/20



COVID 19 CASE REPORT

13 August 2020

427

Total Confirmed
Botswana Cases

288

Active Cases
(Botswana)

136

Recovered
Botswana

3

Deceased

94

New positive tests since 11 August 2020
(67 Botswana / 27 Foreign Nationals)

881

Transferred out

54,400

Border Tests

39,020

Local Tests

93,420

Total Tests

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.

From Page 1

Discussing how COVID -19 affected churches in Botswana on Botswana Television on Sunday, Bishop Beleme said COVID-19 has adversely challenged Christianity.

He said for many years' followers of Christianity have used traditional methods to reach the audience and drive the Godly message at home, "now churches have to offer worship through live stream which lacks emotional connection", explained Bishop Beleme.

He said churches in general survive through receiving tithes from congregants and with new COVID-19 regulations churches are faced with a mammoth task of raising funds for sustenance purposes.

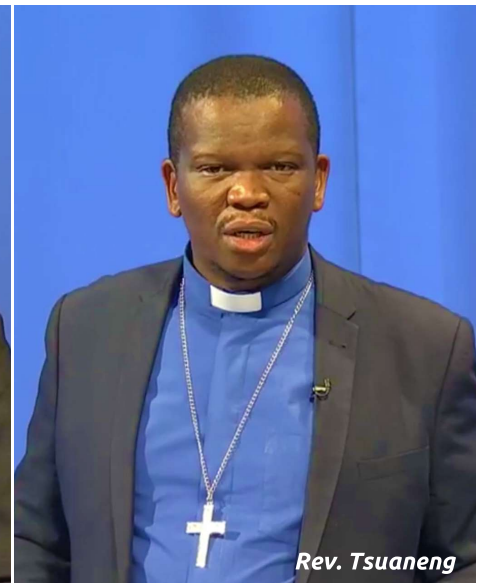
Bishop Beleme underlined that COVID-19 impacted every structure of the Church undesirably.

Botswana Council of Churches General Secretary Reverend Gabriel Tsuaneng said as much as religious societies are affected by COVID-19, he however urged all Christians to follow and abide by the protocols and guidelines set by Government.

He said though Government guidance has been revised to allow certain activities to take place in churches, it is still important to



Bishop Beleme



Rev. Tsuaneng

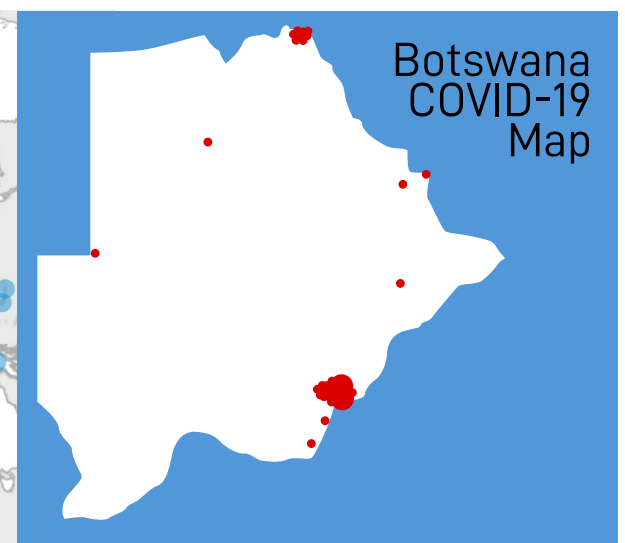
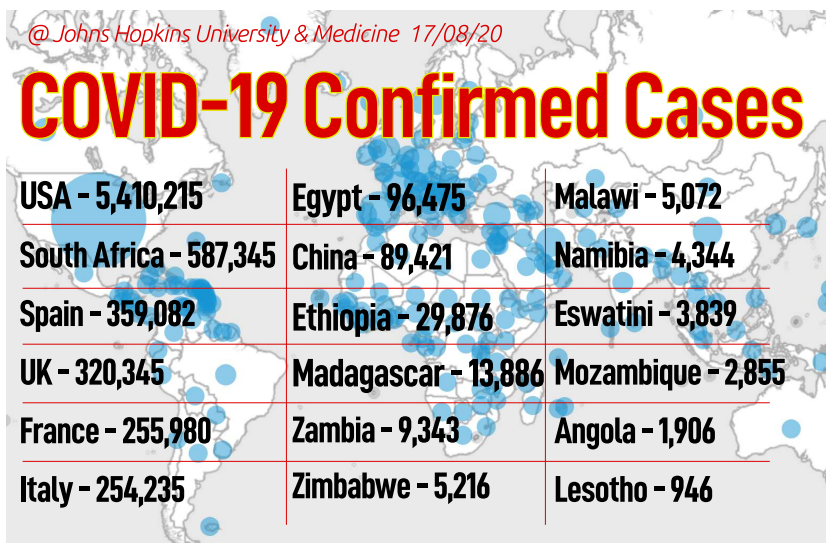
observe necessary hygiene protocols and social distancing precautions in order to protect lives.

The General Secretary said they called leaders of churches for a meeting where they informed them about the 'New Normal' and emphasized the importance of adhering to the law. He said Botswana Council of Churches was harnessing strategic ways of restricting public celebration of sacraments and looking to find ways of innovation while still preaching the Gospel.

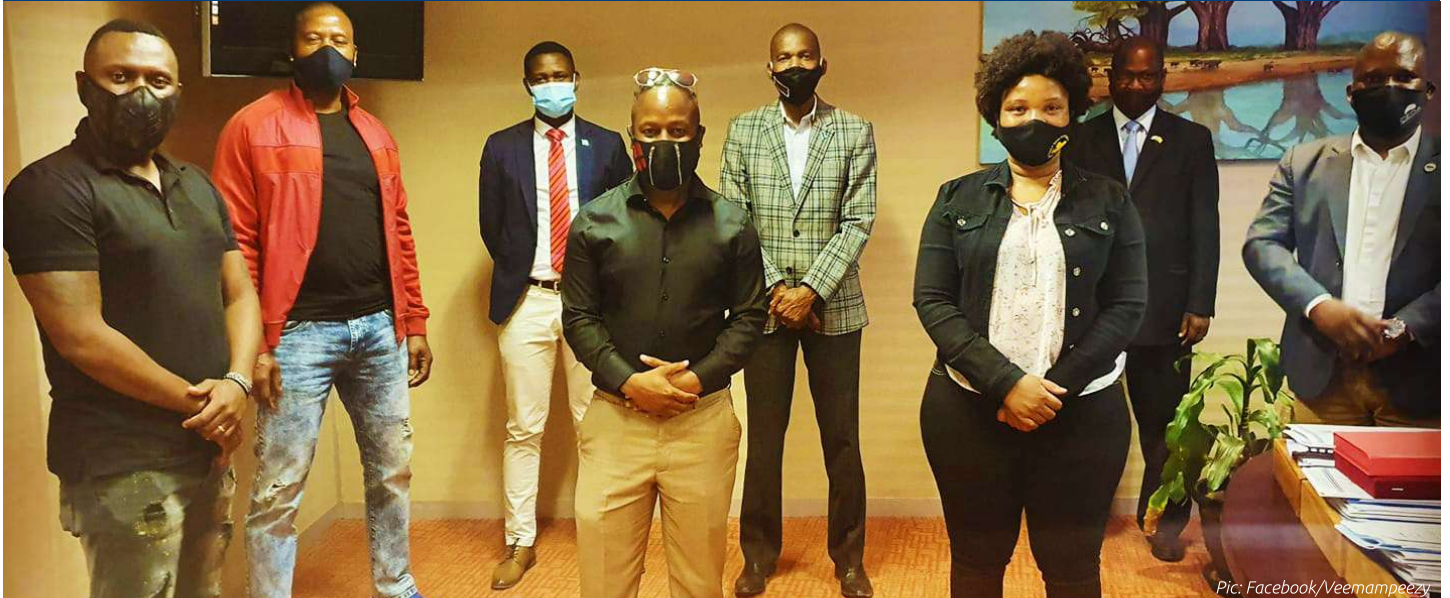
According to Bishop Beleme, Botswana Council of Churches is an ecumenical Christian organization in Botswana and was founded in 1965

by what he described as mainline churches like the Roman Catholic, UCCSA, and Anglican among others. The BCC brings together churches, denominations and church fellowships around the country to work together as members of the fellowship.

On the 13th of August 2020, Director Health Services gave directions under regulation 16c of the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) Regulations, 2020 that Faith Based Organizations services shall have a minimum of 50 persons and not make provision for food or allow for the sale of food and also have a maximum of TWO religious services per week.



The Minister Of Youth Empowerment, Culture and Sports Development and Music Artists meet the Minister Of Health And Wellness



Pic: Facebook/Veemampeezy

The Minister of Youth Empowerment, Culture and Sports Development Honourable Tumiso Rakgare paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Health and Wellness Honourable Dr Lemogang Kwape.

Honourable Rakgare was accompanied by Botswana's renowned music artists among them Franco, Charmagal, Vee Mampeezy and DJ LaTimmy.

The artists declared that since the State of Emergency (SOE) was instituted and the two lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic their industry has been adversely affected. They cited that they make ends meet through staging music shows and festivals.

They implored the Minister of Health and Wellness to reconsider opening their industry. They also said they have a responsibility to also communicate COVID-19 messages especially that of behavioral change.

In response Honourable Dr Lemogang Kwape opined that it was time for people to adapt as the country is facing an unprecedented crisis. Dr Kwape advised the musos to exploit technology at their disposal in the new normal and think of other ways to peddle their music.

"We should be okay if everyone should be extra vigilant and take precautionary measures, anything that we do, we should be mindful that we need to live", quipped Dr Kwape.

Dr Kwape requested musicians to help communicate COVID-19 prevention messages especially wearing of masks in public areas.

On the issue of reopening of the creative industry, Honourable Minister promised to give feedback after the next meeting of Cabinet.

Ministry of Health & Wellness Public Relations.

2 in 5 schools around the world lacked basic handwashing facilities prior to COVID-19 pandemic ~ UNICEF, WHO

As schools worldwide struggle with reopening, the latest data from the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) reveal that 43 per cent of schools around the world lacked access to basic hand-washing with soap and water in 2019 - a key condition for schools to be able to operate safely in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Global school closures since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic have presented an unprecedented challenge to children's education and wellbeing," said Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director. "We must prioritize children's learning. This means making sure that schools are safe to reopen - including with access to hand hygiene, clean drinking water and safe sanitation."

According to the report, around 818 million children lack basic hand-washing facilities at their schools, which puts them at increased risk of COVID-19 and other transmittable diseases. More than one third of these children (295 million) are from sub-Saharan Africa. In the least developed countries, 7 out of 10 schools lack basic hand-washing facilities and half of schools lack basic sanitation and water services.

The report stresses that governments seeking to control the spread of COVID-19 must balance the need for implementation of public health measures versus the associated social and economic impacts of lockdown measures.

Evidence of the negative impacts of prolonged school closures on children's safety, wellbeing and learning are well-documented, the report says.

"Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services is essential for effective infection prevention and control in all settings, including schools," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "It must be a major focus of government strategies for the safe reopening and operation of schools during the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic."

Other key findings from the report include:

- Of the 818 million children who lacked a basic hand-washing service at their school, 355 million went to schools which had facilities with water but no soap, and 462 million to schools which had no facilities or water available for hand-washing.
- In the 60 countries at highest risk of health and humanitarian crises due to COVID-19, 3 in 4 children lacked basic hand-washing service at their school at the start of the outbreak; half of all children lacked basic water service; and more than half lacked basic sanitation service.
- 1 in 3 schools worldwide had either limited drinking water service or no drinking water service at all.
- 698 million children lacked basic sanitation service at their school.

The report identifies several resources necessary for COVID-19 prevention and control in schools, including 10 immediate actions and safety checklists.



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 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 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