

**CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT BILL
REJECTED**
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**HEALTH
PRACTITIONERS
STRIKE OVER
SALARIES** >pg3

Covid-19 WATCH	401 cases	63 recoveries	4 deaths
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More Cities shut down

Members of the uniformed forces were today prohibiting Kwekwe residents access to the central business district with only police, soldiers and nurses being allowed to enter.

This follows shutting down of Bulawayo and Harare CBD early this week and last week. In most of the cities and towns movement is now more restricted with police asking for exemption letters.

Zupco buses were forced to drop people at roadblocks and proceed with only health workers and members of the security service whilst other citizens were not refunded their transport money and had no choice but to walk back home.

The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) hub coordinator, Apostle Sinqobile Mkhweli confirmed these reports and said in the high density areas they were also not allowed to roam around the streets. The members of the police advised them to stay in their homes.

“Today no one was allowed to leave Redcliff to Kwekwe, those who had left did that in the morning before roadblocks were mounted. Shops that had already opened were also told to close,” he said.

A resident of Kwekwe, Richard Piwie Bena said most shops were closed and they passed through three rigorous roadblocks with armed police officers and soldiers. He also mentioned that on the third roadblock he was advised to go back home because the central business district will



Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi

be closed.

“Big shops like Pick n Pay, OK, Spar, banks and pharmacies were closed. The security members at the roadblocks today meant serious business and they were asking for exemptions letters. I passed through three rigorous roadblocks and it’s so draining being asked for the same thing over and over again,” he said.

Jusy Mawarire said the new directive that they got from the police was confusing. He said the order for people to stay at home reverts the country to total lockdown which was enforced in March 2020.

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More Cities shut down

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“It’s now confusing which level or stage of Covid-19 lockdown are we in now? They say we are on stage 2 but what is happening are not the restrictions stipulated at this stage. We are told the lockdown has been eased, the next we are being ordered to stay at home,” he said.

Speaking to The Chronicle, the national police spokesperson, Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) said they are addressing the concerns of residents about the complaints made due to the unexpected shut down that happened in Harare and Bulawayo.

“As we speak the Officer Commanding Bulawayo Province and the Officer Commanding Harare Province have received some of those complaints and concerns which are being addressed. We urge members of the public who might face movement challenges, especially those with exemption letters to contact the local police,” he said.

Assistant Commissioner Nyathi said members of the public should also remember that the country is still on an indefinite lockdown and those with exemptions letters will be allowed to travel to the CBD. He said there has been an increase in the number of people travelling to town with no serious business.

Constitutional Amendment Bill rejected

Hearings on Constitutional Amendment Bill held in Bulawayo and Plumtree indicate that people are rejecting the constitutional amendment proposals.

The public consultations process conducted by Parliament of Zimbabwe has met with stiff resistance as people felt that the bill intended to reverse the gains made by the 2013 constitution on curtailing executive powers and enabling citizens to hold the state to account.

Public hearings on amending the Constitution are continuing in the country this week. Today there were teams in Manicaland (Mutare), Matabeleland South (Plumtree) and Bulawayo.

In almost all the areas that the hearings have been done, more than one session was done as people were more than the stipulated maximum of 50. Participants were broken down into groups so that their views would be heard and recorded.

Many youths in Plumtree, Bulawayo who had attended the public hearings, rejected the amendment of the constitution noting that the timing was inappropriate given the measures

of the Covid-19 induced lockdown with most people unable to access public transport.

“The amendment of the constitution is not a key national issue, why are we seeking to place power in a select few individuals. As young people we reject the proposal by the executive to give us 10 seats. The playing field has to be levelled and allow young people to participate from local to national level. Does it need amendments to empower the youth?” said Brighton Siziba.

Silibaziso Dube from Bulawayo noted that some sections of the constitution need to be aligned with the law. She said instead of amending the constitution, the parliament should focus on the realignment.

“Sections 268 up to 272 of the current constitution have not yet been aligned to law and therefore as youths we plead with the parliament of Zimbabwe not to do away with the proposed amendment of these sections that speak to devolution,” she said.

She also mentioned that the youth quota system was very tokenistic and excludes them because of the party list system and the number of seats being proposed.

Health practitioners strike over salaries



Demonstrating nurses on their way to the Health Service Board offices. Picture credit: Zimbabwe Peace Project

Doctors and nurses at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals in Harare today downed tools in protest over massive pay cut by the Government.

The medical practitioners marched to the Zimbabwe Nursing Board premises where they demanded better pay and improved working conditions.

Speaking in a video circulating on social media, one of the nurses said the money that they are earning is not enough to cover their needs.

She also mentioned that it was very insensitive for the government to reduce their salaries especially this time when they are risking their lives to save citizens during the spread of the novel coronavirus.

“We are working here day and night risking our lives. Sometimes we do not have the time

to go for our lunch breaks because we have to attend to the pressure that we have in hospitals. The saddest part is that our bosses drive Land Rovers and have the luxury to go for lunch for more than two hours whilst we put in all the work,” she said.

In an interview with *ZimEye*, the Zimbabwe Nurses Association President, Enock Dongo said the salary cuts by the government has incapacitated the health workers from executing their duties.

“The June salary has incapacitated nurses from going to work at a time when the country is fighting the coronavirus. This is not affecting nurses and doctors only but everyone who is in the health sector,” he said.

However, the Parirenyatwa Chief Executive Officer Ernest Manyawu discouraged the health workers from conducting the demonstrations as

he deemed it illegal.

“There are proper channels that you have to follow for you to have this kind of a gathering. If the correct channels are not followed then this meeting is illegal and we do not want to address matters in such conditions,” he said.

Following the demonstration by the health workers, the Ministry of Finance released a press statement announcing that civil servants salaries and government pensions will be adjusted upwards by 50 percent with immediate effect.

According to the statement they would also receive an additional, flat nontaxable Covid-19 allowance of USD75 whilst government pensioners will receive USD30. Civil servants and pensioners were urged to immediately open nostro bank accounts with their banks in order to smoothen the process of payment.

Cities and Towns updates

BULAWAYO: People were able to go to work today and shod were open. Seven deaths have been recorded in Luveve due to drinking contaminated water whilst others have begun receiving treatment at Luveve clinic.

KWEKWE: The police and the soldiers were not allowing people to get into town. Only nurses and members of the security sector were allowed into town. Most shops were closed and those that had already opened were ordered to close.

PLUMTREE: Residents attended the constitutional amendment bill hearing meetings. Most of the participants clearly articulated that there was no need for amending the constitution without implementation.