

**DEMAND FOR SEPARATE
QUARANTINE CENTRES
FOR PREGNANT WOMEN**
>pg3

**Covid-19
WATCH**

387
cases

54
recoveries

4
deaths

Constitutional Amendment 2 Rejected



Chiwundura Constitutional Amendment bill hearing

Despite widespread outcry over prevailing coronavirus induced regulations, the Parliament of Zimbabwe this Monday went ahead with countrywide Constitutional Amendment 2 consultations.

The consultative process was supposed to take place in March this year but was however prematurely halted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Already at that time the initial process was marred by general resentment from the public on why the process was initiated. Several civic society organisations have come up with petition initiatives and urgent chamber applications to halt the process.

However despite numerous attempts by the civic organisations to stop the process, the Parliament on Monday rolled out its outreach process with Lupane and Hurungwe being the first areas where consultations were held.

The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) is

insisting that the process should not go ahead because the process is likely to expose the general populace to the Covid-19 virus.

Herein below are reasons why ZCA is totally rejecting the proposed Constitutional Amendments.

- The amendments seek to limit Parliament power to approve international treaties. This has an effect on the rule of law and fair input on the will of the people to influence multilateral and bilateral engagement processes. We strongly believe that Parliament should play an oversight role in all the foreign engagement that the state pursues.

- Delink delimitation of electoral boundaries from censuses. This is predisposed to party influenced electoral boundaries therein compromising the dictates of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

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Dirty water coming out of a tap

Contaminated water claims more lives

Residents associations in Luveve claim that five people have died so far due to the consumption of contaminated water from their taps in Bulawayo's suburb of Luveve.

This morning reports coming in from Luveve indicate that a three-year-old died in the area thereby increasing the number of deaths to five.

It has been a month since residents complained to the Bulawayo City Council (BCC) that their tap water was contaminated. This led to the people of Old Luveve demonstrating against the BCC for clean water.

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Constitutional Amendment 2 Rejected

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- Allow the appointment of additional non parliamentary ministers. This creates a susceptible room for the President to appoint his/her cronies to ministerial positions thereby compromising accountability and transparency within the Cabinet.

- Alter the membership of provincial and metropolitan councils (Chapter 14 National Devolution awareness campaign that we are carrying out). This is an attempt to incorporate President appointed proxies such as Ministers of State thereby violating the provisions of the 2013 Constitution.

- Alter provisions for the promotion and

tenure of judges. The inconsistent promotion and appointment of the judges will vehemently compromise the independence of the judiciary system.

- Alter the way in which the prosecutor general is appointed and dismissed. This will have an effect on the effectiveness of the prosecution processes. The Prosecutor General might compromise some of the criminal matters brought to his/her attention largely because of the appointment clauses that are proposed.

- Create the office of public protector and transfer functions to him/her from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. This will diminish the relevancy of the Chapter 12 institution when it comes to dealing with issues of human rights.

Contaminated water claims more lives

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Many households in Luveve have been affected by the prevailing water situation and have forced them to appeal for medical assistance from the Council as they cannot afford the accumulating medical bills.

The ward 15, Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BPRA) chairperson, Mr. Ndaba Ngoma said the Council was not taking ownership of the water problem but were blaming citizens for using dirty containers to store water.

“Does the city council mean that almost every household in this area is failing to practice clean hygiene. Is it the first time that the city is going through a water shedding programme? Why is the issue of diarrhea only popping up now and the blame is being given to the residents,” he said.

Mr. Ngoma said Bulawayo was known for having clean and safe water to drink in all the cities in the country. He said the local authority should fix the problem before many lives are lost.

“Our water has traditionally been the cleanest and we have always drunk water from the tap. All of a sudden, they are urging people to boil water before drinking. Then it means they are aware of the problem at hand, but they do not want to tell us,” he said.

Mr. Ngoma said what they were expecting was the local authority to come up with ways

to assist families that have been affected by diarrhoea.

“The Council is responsible for the clinic and this is the time that people should benefit as rate payers. They should organize that people who are suffering from diarrhoea be attended to at the clinic without paying for that service,” he said.

In response to the plight highlighted by residents, the Member of Parliament for Luveve Constituency, Honourable Stella Ndlovu said she has arranged for those affected to receive medical attention for free. She also noted that despite the free medication, they were also making arrangements to bring in more staff at the clinic.

“The clinic does not have enough staff to attend to the affected residents but efforts to bring in more health practitioners are being made,” she said.

BPRA has launched an investigation into the suitability of the water and has dispatched a team of water experts to the affected suburbs to try and get to the root cause of the deaths.

“Council has blamed residents for using dirty containers and we think this is not helping anyone.

Bulawayo City Council must take responsibility. We will make sure that every resident who has fallen sick due to drinking contaminated water is accounted for by the BCC and government,” said BPRA Coordinator, Emmanuel Ndlovu.

Demand for separate quarantine centres for pregnant women

Pregnant women returnees have expressed being uncomfortable with giving birth at quarantine centres as they have to conform to the 21 days isolation process.

Last week, one of the returnees who preferred to be known as MaMoe and is 38 weeks pregnant arrived at Beitbridge border posts said she was scared of giving birth at the quarantine centre.

“We know that it is mandatory to be quarantined, but I am not sure that this is the kind of environment that I want my child to be born and exposed too. The place is very crowded and uncomfortable. Just imagine how it is going to be so inconvenient when I have a little baby,” she said.

She suggested that instead of them being quarantined at the centre with other people, maybe a section at the maternity wards be reserved for people on quarantine awaiting delivery.

“If it was possible the responsible authorities should arrange a ward for expecting mothers at hospitals so that we can stay there after giving birth. This could be a better option because these quarantine centres are not safe for everyone. People are overstaying due to the long process of testing,” she said.

MaMoe also mentioned that this was her first child and therefore she needs the help of her parents in handling the child but, due to the quarantine, she will have to cope alone.



Pregnant women returnees

“This is my first child, I pray and hope that everything goes well. It would have been better if my parents were here to help me take care of the newborn. I hope that the health officials who are present here will help me through,” she said.

Besides this challenge, people with chronic diseases have also complained of shortage of medical supplies at the quarantine centres

and shortage of food. Recently, some female deportees quarantined at United College of Education (UCE) staged a demonstration claiming that they have overstayed at the institution.

Last month in Gweru, a pregnant returnee who had been prompted to return home because of ill health was reported dead at Mkoba Teachers College.

Cities and Towns updates

PLUMTREE: Gain supermarket was selling sugar at ZWL\$292, mealie-meal R73 or ZWL\$332 whilst Greens supermarket the same brand of mealie-meal is at R83. There were no usual long queues for mealie-meal or sugar at both supermarkets most probably due to the buying conditions. These supermarkets are only selling mealie meal and sugar to people who have bought groceries. Sakunda service stations have fuel, but the queues are very long.

GWERU: There was a constitutional amendment public hearing today at Chiwundura

Shopping centre. The area is 25km away from the city centre which has been a challenge for people in the city centre to attend due to the lockdown restriction that requires one to have a travelling pass.

BULAWAYO: the city has recorded five deaths due to diarrhoea at Luveve Suburb. Investigations are underway to find the cause of the deaths. It is business as usual in the CBD, many shops are open, people are moving around with masks on. Long queues are still seen at Zupco terminuses.

LUPANE: Public hearing on the constitutional amendment was done today. The hearing was done at an open space and people were divided into two groups as they were above 50. People aired out their views and the majority of them did not approve any of the proposed amendments.

CHEGUTU: Churches met at Pfupajena to hold the national day of prayer and fasting. The District Development Coordinator, Mr Tomu was the guest of honour. The army, other security personnel and government officials were also present at the prayer meeting.