

**TYPHOID HIT RESIDENTS
PLEAD FOR BOREHOLES**

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**NETONE SHUTS DOWN
BYO OFFICES AS
EMPLOYEE FEARED
COVID POSITIVE** >pg3

**COVID-19
WATCH**

605
cases

166
recoveries

7
deaths

Human and Wildlife conflict looms

A human and wildlife conflict is looming in Lupote ward Hwange as marauding lions kill livestock and have left villagers terrified and angry.

The pillaging lions have literally brought activities, including economic engagements, to a complete halt as resident's movements are limited for fear of attacks. In essence the villagers are now living on a double edged sword with the rampaging Covid-19 pandemic compounding them to more woes.

The wild animals are reported to have killed more than 10 goats, 1 calf and donkeys in the area. They are thought to be invading the village in search of food. Villagers are also now afraid of travelling at night as they fear being attacked by lions. Luckily off late no recorded cases of human beings who have been directly attacked by the lions.

"We always hear them howling at night and that scares us. That's a sign that these lions are closer to us than we think. We are no longer safe at night especially for us imbibers who frequent Cross Dete at night. On our way back to Jwaphe we now travel in groups so as to protect ourselves", said Mqabuko Maphosa (32) from Jwaphe.

Women and young girls have also not been spared from the ensuing melee as their daily water collection routine has been affected.

"The prowling lions have been a menace to both women and girls in the area as we are now unable to go and fetch water at the well. Usually we wake up at 5am to start getting water for domestic use but now we are unable to do so because of these animals", said Florence



Tshuma, a female resident of Lupote.

Villages that are mostly affected by the prowling lions are Jwaphe, Makwandala, Dopota, Chezhou, Chentale and Slewu. These areas are adjacent to the Hwange National Park.

The affable national park is now a pale shadow of its might as the once impenetrable perimeter fence has either been vandalised or stolen.

Who is to fault for the collapsed fence that is letting out animals? It is allegedly that the more than 420 kilometre stretch of fence has been cut off by suspected poachers and sadly also

by villagers.

"There is no fence at all. It has been cut by whom we don't know. The authorities are blaming villagers for cutting the fence. The villagers are also counter blaming the authorities for working with poachers in cutting the fence. The end is nigh for us villagers if the fence issue is not solved. These animals will continue to torment us", said ward 16 councillor, Cosmas Mwakiposa.

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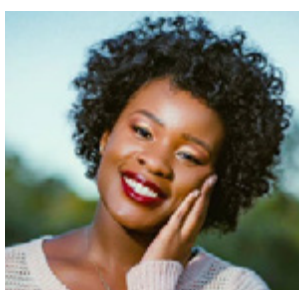
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Human and Wildlife conflict looms

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“The lions are now giving us a torrid time as villagers as we are now unable to do our normal routines in fear of being attacked. What has compounded the situation is that elephants are also bent on destroying crops and attacking human beings. About 2 weeks ago we told this publication (*The Christian Voice*) that we are facing problems with animals and now the situation has shifted to lions. If this situation goes unabated our lives will be miserable”, said Mwakiposa.

The Councillor further told this publication that the Parks and Wildlife Authority has been doing awareness programs in the area so as to conscientise villagers about the dangers of the wild animals. He also said that as the local leadership they have been instrumental in complementing Parks authorities in disseminating information within the villagers.

“As residents of Lupote we have cascaded awareness on human-wildlife conflict in the area. We have come up with a WhatsApp group that we have called Firefighters Lupote. The objective of the group is to sensitize villagers on the dangers of wild animals. Our campaign also envisages to alert the villagers on the detriments of poaching and cutting down trees in the Park. We envisage

to induce a culture of ownership amongst our villagers. We want the villagers to know the importance of not cutting off the fence”, he said.

The councillor also mentioned that as villagers they are grateful for the assistance they are getting from individuals and corporates in the area in their bid to fight the bothering animals. He stated that the Member of Parliament for Hwange East Honourable Tose Sansole has been influential in cascading the message of averting dangerous animals. He also cited organisations such as Painted Dog Conservancy that are instrumental in cascading the information in the area.

Echoing the Councillor’s sentiments, one of the members of the WhatsApp group, Nicholas Dube said that as villagers the platform has afforded them an opportunity to learn about the dangers of wild animals.

“For me I last had an opportunity to learn about these things when we were doing Campfire lessons at school. These lessons are valuable because they enable us to protect our lives and those of the domesticated animals that we habitat with”, he said.

Meanwhile over the years, the National Parks authorities have consistently snuffed out dangerous animals that cause mayhem in the area.

Typhoid hit residents plead for boreholes

Since the beginning of the year, Bulawayo has had a serious water crisis that has since developed into a health hazard. As a desperate measure, residents in some suburbs are now resorting to using unsafe water sources to get water for their daily routines.

Thirteen people have died in Luveve due to suspected typhoid.

Many of the residents are suggesting that the local authorities drill more boreholes for them.

Mr Moyo from Luveve told *The Christian Voice* that if there were boreholes in their suburb, they would not worry about drinking tap water.

“To beat this problem, our City Council should drill more boreholes in Luveve. At some point when I was watching the news on ZBC, I saw

them talking about drilling boreholes this side but that ended on TV and till now it has not been done,” he said.

Mr Moyo is one of the people that was affected by the recent suspected cases of typhoid that has ravaged the suburb. He revealed that his daughter, who is four years old almost died from drinking the contaminated water.

“I watched my daughter run out of breath and you can just imagine the pain I endured as an adult; how does a small child survive from such pains. After going through such a traumatic experience, the local authorities then accuse us of using dirty containers. That is being very disrespectful,” he said.

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NetOne Shuts Down Byo offices as employee feared Covid positive

Telecommunications giant NetOne has with immediate effect closed all its Bulawayo branches amidst fears that the recently declared Covid-19 death number 7, a male aged 49 from Bulawayo Province, was closely related to one of their employees.

The mobile network has ordered that all their Bulawayo shops be closed as they try to do contact tracing and testing of all other employees who may have been exposed to the deceased and their employees.

While it was not clear whether there were any or more confirmed positive cases tested, the company was cautious to close doors as fears reached high levels, triggering high suspicions of confirmed positive cases.

“To help us reduce further exposure and transmission of the novel coronavirus, we have directed the immediate closure of all shops in Bulawayo, as areas where the infected employees were exposed,” read part of the statement.

The statement however confirms that there were indeed infected employees, warranting the closure.

NetOne encouraged their employees to remain calm as they roll out decontamination measures to ensure everyone’s safety while rapid testing has also been arranged for all staff both nationwide, while it is said to have already



started in Bulawayo.

Econet Wireless Zimbabwe early this year had to close their Joina City branch after one of their employees was exposed to the Covid-19 virus as well, forcing many other companies on the building to shut doors.

Bulawayo and Beitbridge are slowly becoming Covid-19 hotspots with higher cases being reported in these areas. Most of these patients including death number 7 had recently visited South Africa and are only reported to have been tested positive after death.

This makes the whole contact tracing a mine job as many more other people may have been already infected if there were not practicing basic safety rules. — **Source: Technomag**

Typhoid hit residents plead for boreholes

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Mr Moyo said whilst visiting her daughter at Mpilo Hospital, he was shocked by the number of people that had been admitted to the hospital with the same symptoms. He said due to this, together with other pastors they ended up praying for other patients at the hospital.

“At the hospital there was a ward for women, men and children all from Luveve. People were sick, and this disease makes you unable to move and it feels like something is chewing your intestines. Because of the sad sight that we witnessed I had to leave my daughter and join other pastors in prayer for the sick,” he said.

Narrating the ordeal to The Christian Voice, he said one of his neighbours had to be operated on because part of his intestines had been damaged by the water, Mr Moyo said the young man had been taking care of his older brothers who were also bed ridden.

“If everyone in the family is sick then how will they take care of each other. It was better at first since the young man was not sick but suddenly, he was sick. The doctors operated on him because his intestines had been infected,” he said

He said what was strange with the hospital personnel is that when the young man was tested, his results were sent to the City Council before they were shared with him.

“Why would they send his results to the city council first before sharing them with the owner of the results? They are acting as if the council will pay for his bills. The way the health personnel acted is a confirmation that something is being hidden from the people,” he said.

Mr Moyo said their area was the most affected because they have water most of the time compared to other areas. His request was that the city council visit houses in that area and collect samples of water that affected people rather than collecting samples that are not from the area.

“They should come to our houses. We have samples of water that made many people sick. Those are the samples that they should be taking to the laboratory, not what they are doing now. As a resident, I plead that the council rectifies the matter as soon as possible. People are dying because of this water problem compared to Covid-19 pandemic,” he said.

Cities and Towns Update

CHEGUTU: There is no fuel at most garages except one garage at high density areas which charges in US\$. Soldiers are now patrolling at night, last night they raided an area where people were drinking alcohol.

HURUNGWE: Life is back to normal and they are no longer wearing masks around villages. All shops are operating as normal from 8am to 4:30pm. Bars are operating illegally, and they are opening their doors to those who want to watch soccer (EPL). Churches are doing their Wednesday services indoors; no social distancing and a few people will be wearing masks. There is no confirmed case of Covid-19 yet.

CHINHOYI: It is business as usual. Very peaceful and everyone seems to be complying to the lockdown regulations as they are putting

on masks in town, but it is not the same in high density areas. In Gadzema, kids are playing in the streets as they are now restless with staying indoors. Parents seem to have given up on keeping them inside.

Fuel is still scarce. The only one service station is selling both Petrol and Diesel in USD. Petrol is being sold at USD1.20 whilst diesel is pegged at USD1.10 per litre. Queues are seen at Texas meats; OK and TM Pick n Pay in town as people buy basic commodities.

LUPANE: Business is going back to normal as Flea Market stands have also opened. However, they have been moved from their old site to a new one. Most of the people and shops are excited as they can now trade in foreign currency.