

The Christian Voice

Monday, 3 August, 2020

NO TO SHEBEENS AND PARTIES! >pg2

BEITBRIDGE MAN HOSPITALISED AFTER BRUTAL POLICE DOG ATTACK >pg3

COVID-19 WATCH	4075 cases	1057 recoveries	80 deaths
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#Zimbabweanlivesmatter

An international and regional advocacy campaign is developing on #zimbabweanlivesmatter focusing on human rights abuses and deteriorating conditions in Zimbabwe.

Over the past two weeks several reports have emerged of human rights abuses and alleged abductions and torture of activists and civil society human rights defenders.

This Monday, several high profile socialites across Africa took to Twitter to express their

concerns over the deteriorating human rights conditions in the country. This follows a diplomatic blackout by bodies such as SADC, AU that have been mum on the deteriorating Zimbabwean situation despite calls by many distressed citizen voices.

Award winning South African rapper AKA who is the proponent of the hashtag #ZimbabweanLivesMatter which by close end of the day had more than 35000 tweets did not mince his words:

“Imagine your fellow Africans too busy focused on #BLM happening 15 000 kms away to care about those very same black lives NEXT DOOR. Stay Strong ZIMBABWE”, he tweeted.

Massive was the tweet that it was top trending in South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, United Kingdom, USA and Zimbabwe.

Bulawayo based hip hop artist ASAPH who is a strong advocate for human rights also took the opportunity to air out his voice over the atrocities.

“Hope is the only option for me. That’s my fuel and what drives me. The hope that one day things will be better. That’s my only choice. Without hope I wouldn’t even be able to get out of bed let alone do what’s necessary for the change I want to see. KEEP HOPE ALIVE”, tweeted ASAPH.

From Durban, king of kwaito music, DJ Tira also tweeted his solidarity to the cause by highlighting how he fondly recalls Zimbabweans.

“Zimbabwe always supports my events. I love Zimbabwe like I love South Africa. #ZimbabweanLivesMatter”, he tweeted.

Viral was the tweet that Ghanaian based hotshot AY POYOO of the ‘I am the Goat’ fame also wished peace and love in Zimbabwe.

“Peace and love to Zimbabwe My POYOORIANS there please stay safe Goat Folded hands #ZimbabweanLivesMatter- AY POYOO”, he said

Recently political activists like Tawanda Muchechiwa, Nigel Ndlovu and Muzingaye Thaka were arrested for carrying the Zimbabwean flag

and that did not deter South African beauty queen Boity from resonating with the national flag.

Former Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba called upon for the restoration of justice in the country so as to curtail the rise of illegal immigrants that are flooding into South Africa.

“You can both agree that #ZimbabweanLivesMatter, while being against illegal immigration in South Africa. Don’t let some tell you that it must be one OR the other. Let’s fight for justice in Zimbabwe by building South Africa as a strong law-abiding neighbour that can inspire change in Zimbabwe”, said Mashaba.

Former Democratic Alliance (DA) leader Mmusi Maimane who has been vocal over the situation with repeated calls for President Cyril Ramaphosa who is the AU Chair to address the issue.

“Eita @Trevornoah can we find a way to bring global attention to the human rights abuses in Africa. The attacks on black lives in our neighbourhood which need global solidarity. A burning topic right now is the arrests of journalists and activists in Zimbabwe #ZimbabweanLivesMatter. Dear @Twitter please make a graphic for this hashtag. #ZimbabweanLivesMatter. I think it deserves recognition in the same way that #Blacklivesmatter has a graphic. @jack can you make something happen”, tweeted Maimane.

Meanwhile the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Services Nick Ndavaningi Mangwana tried to downplay the viral tweet by stating that the country was on the downturn as a result of the Western sanctions that were imposed on the country.

I am not spinning anything. I am listening to Zimbabweans and agreeing with them. Do I need to be oppositional even when I agree that #ZimbabweanLivesMatter AND #ZimSanctionsMustGo”, he tweeted.



AKA

Local transmissions constitute 95 % of Byo Covid-19 cases

LOCAL Covid-19 transmissions have risen alarmingly in the country, constituting more than 70 percent of all cases, while they make up 94,5 percent of Bulawayo's infections.

This comes at a time when 69 people have been killed by the virus in the country, with the total number of cases rising to 3 659.

Bulawayo and Harare remain the worst affected provinces, followed by Matabeleland South and the Midlands provinces. The 132 535 Covid-19 tests that had been conducted by Saturday comprised 70 958 Rapid Diagnostic tests (RDT) and 61 577 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests.

The positivity rate, calculated by dividing the total number of tests conducted by the number of positive results, for the combined PCR and RDT tests is one positive case in every 36 people tested.

Two weeks ago, the positivity rate was one in every 60. One in every 19 people has tested

positive for Covid-19 when using the PCR figures.

Two weeks ago, one in every 35 people had tested positive for Covid-19 when using the RDT while one in every 24 people had tested positive for Covid-19 when using the PCR figures.

Local transmission cases now make up 70, 8 percent of Covid-19 cases in the country, while imported cases only constitute about 29 percent. In Bulawayo, 94,5 percent of the Covid-19 cases are from local transmissions, while imported ones make up for only 5,5 percent.

To date, the country has recorded 1 065 imported cases and 2 594 local cases. The manifestation of Covid-19 has been changing since the country recorded its first case on March 20 when cases were mainly reported from individuals with a travel history.

After a few weeks, infections started being concentrated at quarantine centres accommodating returning residents mainly from South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique.

The number of local transmissions started rising later, with the highest numbers of local transmissions being reported on August 1.

Mpilo Central Hospital Acting Chief Executive Officer Professor Solwayo Ngwenya said the figures on local cases were not surprising as they mirrored public behaviour towards the pandemic.

“Those figures, while worrying should not



Professor Solwayo Ngwenya

come as a surprise. They are just showing the people's behaviour and indifference about the virus. If people do not change their ways, then we will see worse figures, and more deaths reported. People must listen. Deaths are already increasing as we are seeing daily, what more do people need to be convinced to stay at home. We have allowed the virus to penetrate, and over the next few weeks, we should expect to see more cases, and deaths too. But with behaviour change, we could slow the tide," he said.

source: Community Podium News



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No to shebeens and parties!

The Bulawayo City Health Department has instituted an investigation after reports that a dozen of people who attended a birthday party hosted on July 4 at a lodge in Burnside in the city had contracted Covid-19 virus.

About 100 people allegedly attended the event yet lockdown measures prohibit gatherings of more than 50.

Sixty-nine people had been killed by the virus in the country by Saturday, while the total number of cases was 3 659.

Reports indicate that shebeens are running in many parts of Bulawayo while new ones are being opened. House parties are being hosted too while illegal nightclubs are being run.

National Police Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi yesterday said Covid-19 lockdown arrests continue to rise, with 1 011 people having been arrested on Saturday for various offences related to flouting Covid-19 regulations.

That brought the cumulative arrests to 124 990 since the initial lockdown on March 30 countrywide. Harare tops the list at 26 723, followed by Manicaland province with 23 522 arrests. Bulawayo comes third with 16 715 arrests.

Police said liquor related offences continued to be a problem, which they said was worrying when looking at the rate at which Covid-19 cases are increasing in the country.

Source: Sunday News

Beitbridge man hospitalised after brutal police dog attack

A 40-year-old man from Beitbridge was hospitalised on Saturday after police officers reportedly set dogs on him while enforcing lockdown regulations in the border town.

It is said that Edmond Chimusoro Zeyazeya was caught up in the melee as police officers chased after illegal foreign currency dealers.

He is currently admitted to Beitbridge Hospital with serious wounds.

Speaking to CITE, his sister-in-law Eugenia Makura said Zeyazeya left home to buy food for his children when the incident occurred.

"He left home in the morning around 8 to buy food for the children at the Engine garage, one of the children had said they wanted Chicken Inn," said Makura.

"He said when he got to the Engine garage he met the police who were on an operation, when he saw them he was and he tried to move away."

However, the police officers reportedly ordered him to stop and he obliged, and they set their dogs.

He was savagely attacked and sustained deep wounds.

The police officers later took him to hospital.

Contacted for a comment, National police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said the case is under investigation.

"That case is under investigation, we are quite aware there was an incident yesterday in Beitbridge where people were contravening Covid-19 regulations," said Commissioner Nyathi.

"They were approached by officers, they tried to run away and unfortunately one of them was bitten by a police dog and the case is currently under investigation," he said.

Source: CITE



Cities and Towns Updates

LUPANE: It is business as usual. Police officers and soldiers are doing their patrols. Shops opened at 8am and closed at 3pm. There were long queues at Agribank and Mukuru as people were collecting money. Social distancing was not observed but most of the people were wearing masks.

MATOPO: It was business as usual, all shops were open. The clinic was also open and people were being attended to by the health workers. In Dewe, everything is normal. People are going on with their daily duties.

HURUNGWE: Private pirating cars are back on the road and they are overloading passengers. Many people in Doro and Magunje are opting to use these as there are no Zupco buses or kombis. Some of the people were seen drinking traditional beer in groups using one cup, which is very risky in this pandemic.

NKAYI: It was business as usual. There were no police officers patrolling today. Shops were open at 8am upto 3pm. People were going on with their daily routines and those in public spaces were wearing masks but social

distancing was not observed.

TSHOLOTSO: It was business as usual. People are putting on their masks as required. Shops are opening at 8am and closing at 3pm. Police have intensified arrests of motorists who are travelling without exemption letters.

PLUMTREE: It was business as usual, no police nor army patrols. Shops were all open and closed at 3pm. Fuel shortage continues to be a problem in Plumtree. Residents with prepared meters have had no water for the past 3 weeks because of network failure.