

**INCENTIVISE FAITHFUL RATEPAYERS >pg3**

**MLALAZI FAMILY RECEIVES DONATIONS FROM COMMUNITY >pg4**

<b>Covid-19 WATCH</b>	<b>551</b> cases	<b>128</b> recoveries	<b>6</b> deaths
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# PSS a requisite for returnees

**P**sychosocial Support is a pre requisite for people in quarantine centres as most of them are traumatised and need assurance that everything will be okay as they leave the quarantine centres.

Speaking during a church leaders psychosocial training in Chinhoyi, Mashonaland West Social Welfare officer, Mrs Leah Mutandiri said returnees at quarantine centres are going through a lot of stress and trauma as they try to adjust and adapt to the new living conditions.

“We must take into cognisance that these people were accustomed to a certain way of living, that is different from living at quarantine centres. It will take time for them to be used to this new way of life and some will completely fail to adjust hence they run away from the centres,” she said.

Mrs Mutandiri said because of the uncertainty of what will happen in their lives at the centres and outside quarantine, some develop health problems. The high stress levels also cause them to be unstable triggering many side effects.

“These are bread winners who are currently quarantined, and they stress about how their families will be taken care of. New health problems start developing as their minds are restless and the body fails to function normally,” she said.

She urged the church community to come up with ways that they can partner with the social welfare in helping the community during the coronavirus period.

“We appeal to the church to help the



**ZCA board chairman Rev Obert Shatai addressing participants in Chinhoyi**

government in providing some of the basic needs at quarantine centres. The government does give food but there are some in other centres who need medical supplies,” she said.

Another concern was that there was shortage of toiletries and entertainment for children. She said children need to be entertained either by reading story books or toys to play with.

“We do not want them to feel like they are in prison. If there are people who can provide us with reading material and books for the children, we will be very grateful. Sanitary wear is also another shortage that we have. This is a necessity for women since they are not able to leave the centres to buy their toiletries,” said Mrs Mutandiri.

The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance, Board Chairman Reverend Obert Shatai said the issue

of food shortage and hunger was now affecting all provinces including Mashonaland West.

“As the church we need to think about how we can help our communities beyond counselling and also provide food parcels. Am also concerned about the plight of children during this period. I often notice that some of the children staying in the farms are living in poverty,” he said.

Rev Shatai said due to the poverty that these children are going through; they are also prone to abuse.

“Children are being abused and you will find that there might be issues of child labour in those farms. Women also need to be empowered with life skills and for some who already have those skills we need to develop them and find ways of sustaining them,” he said.



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# Kamativi in dire straits

**K**amativi is a mining town in Matabeleland North province, Zimbabwe which until 1994 had a booming tin mine located in the town. At its peak, Kamativi Tin Mines, had the biggest underground tin mine in Africa, employed 1,350 people with an infrastructure to support the workers and their dependants. Its woes started around 1991 when 700 workers were retrenched due to falling commodity prices before eventual closure in June 1994.

The town now resembles a ghost town with dilapidated infrastructure and fragmented society that is mostly reliant on food to mouth.

The area Councillor for Kamativi which is in ward 11 of Hwange East constituency, Mr. Jacob Nyoni narrated to the Christian Voice the ordeal that his people are going through.

“Ever since the closure of the tin mine sources of income in my ward have been heavily affected. People are living from hand to mouth. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Chinese mining companies in the area had promised to employ youths but that has since been affected by the virus”, said Councillor Nyoni.

He reiterated that the situation has been exacerbated by wild animals that are now competing with human beings for the little available resources

“We have crocodile infested dams that inhibiting people from fishing in order to survive. Also, Kamativi just like many areas in Matabeleland is affected by marauding elephants that are bent on destroying crops every now and again. As a way of alleviating hunger, people in my ward normally supplement their income through subsistence farming however their efforts are thwarted by these wild animals,” said Councillor Nyoni.

The councillor went on at length to describe how the formally thriving mine has been turned into a spooky ghost town.

“The mine club, where managers used to relax after a hard day’s work, is now a goat pen. Goat droppings litter the once prestigious bar, while someone has removed compressors from the bar fridges. Life is difficult here. We are living from hand to mouth. We have been hearing that the mine will re-open for the past 26 years”, said Councillor Nyoni.

On the question of assistance that they are getting from multi-stakeholders, the Councillor

***“The economic situation has adversely hit youths in Kamativi who have no source of income to rely on. Coal mines in Hwange are not forthcoming when it comes to assisting our youths . . .”***

lamented how the area has been neglected by both humanitarian organisations and government structures.

“Besides assistance that we are getting from the local pastors and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) such as Basilwizi Trust there is a huge gap that we have noted in the area. People in my ward need assistance in terms of livelihoods, psychosocial support and constitutional awareness. This will help them to fully recognise their worth in society and be an active citizenry”, he said.

The situation has also affected women and youths in the area who have nowhere to resort to

“The economic situation has adversely hit youths in Kamativi who have no source of income to rely on. Coal mines in Hwange are not forthcoming when it comes to assisting our youths. My plea is that companies such as Makomo Resources and Hwange Colliery should prioritise employing local youths whenever a vacancy come through”, said Cllr Nyoni.

Meanwhile the Hwange area coordinator for Zimbabwe Christian Alliance Overseer Siyaphambili Moyo noted with concern the dire situation that people in Kamativi are going through. He pledged that as the local pastor’s fraternity they will hold a caucus on how to address the issue

“Kamativi is now like a forgotten town. Many people are not aware of the plight of the people there. As the local hub will have tasked Pastors based in Kamativi to ascertain the needs that we can offer. We envisage to assist the community anything from psychosocial support to advocacy, peace building training and livelihoods. He also appealed for food assistance as Kamativi just like other areas has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Incentivise faithful ratepayers

**R**esidents of Gweru have called upon the local municipality to consider incentivising ratepayers who religiously pay up their monthly dues

Speaking during the budget awareness meeting that was organised by the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance in Gweru this Thursday, residents called upon the local authority to provide incentives for residents who regularly pay their rates

"This will be a welcome move for residents that are regularly paying their dues. I hope that the council take up this challenge so that many residents will be challenged to pay their dues" said Simon Hamadziripi, a resident of Mkoba.

"This is a noble idea but however residents have also complained about poor, dilapidated and potholed roads, making it difficult for motorists to navigate. Refuse collection vehicles have also often failed to service many parts of the suburbs in Gweru, resulting in rubbish piling up", said Cornelia Selipiwe, director for Gweru Residents and Ratepayers Association (GRRRA).

Gweru residents have, however, faulted the city fathers of misplaced priorities, saying



they were purchasing luxurious cars and overspending on salaries and benefits for its senior staff to the detriment of services delivery.

The City has also been accused of leaving sewer and water pipes unattended, taking long to repair them and exposing residents to serious

waterborne diseases.

The Gweru deputy Mayor Councillor Cleopas Shiri said that the council was grateful to engage with the residents and that the issues will be dealt with.

## Citizens fail to cope due to Covid-19

**C**hurch leaders in Chegutu District have undergone an intensive two-day training on psychosocial support. The training was designed after Zimbabwe Christian Alliance noted the growing need in communities to deal with stress, trauma, depression and anxiety in a Covid-19 environment.

Trained church leaders were equipped with skills to carry out the work in a systematic and organized manner, particularly to returning residents that are quarantined, as well as the community at large.

ZCA Board member Susan Moyo said that the initiative to capacitate church leaders with skills on support work was very relevant as it deals with lived realities in communities.

"Attending the training has been opportune in

that it has allowed me to come on the ground and get a first-hand experience of the work being carried out in the communities. The skills which have been imparted are relevant as many people are stressed, suffering from anxiety attacks, depression and trauma.

Speaking on the side lines of the training Pastor Edmore Phiri said Chegutu hub realises the negative impact that corona virus has had on many families. Many people are failing to cope with the changes that they are now faced with. The church has been carrying out various interventions to assist affected members of their churches as well as other members of the community.

Last week, the church leaders managed to assist with blankets to vulnerable people who are being exposed to winter.

The church leaders will be distributing food to vulnerable communities on Friday as part of the interventions to mitigate against hunger and starvation. About 20 tonnes of mealie-meal will be distributed from Baptist Church to the community.

Chegutu hub Coordinator Brian Magwenzi, said that a multifaceted approach to assist the communities was being used.

Chegutu District currently has one quarantine centre now at Mashayamombe training Centre, which is in Mhondoro. This is after the second quarantine centre at Mupfure-Self-Help college was closed as they are preparing for the re-opening of learning institutions around the country. Chinengundu Clinic is the identified isolation centre for Covid-19 cases within the District.





*Mr Mafu donates food to the Mlalazi family*



*Ward 17 Councilor Sikhululekile Moyo speaking during the meeting at Robert Sinyoka*

# Mlalazi Family receives donations from community

**T**he community of Pumula has joined hands to build a home for the Mlalazi family (Gogo MaMoyo) whose house roof was blown away by wind and has been currently staying in a shack without blankets in this cold winter.

Yesterday, the Pumula Youth Leaders Forum under the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance Pumula Local Peace committee had an all stakeholders meeting at Robert Sinyoka which aimed at assisting the Mlalazi family with donations such as food, clothes, building material and money.

The PYLF organising secretary, Mr Givemore Mangena said the meeting was attended by pastors from different churches, councillors, resident associations from Pumula

and development committees from four peri-urban villages.

Mr Mangena said he was happy with the support that has been given to the family by all the stakeholders who attended the meeting. He said they had initially planned to build a single room for the family but HOCIC pledged to help build two rooms.

“Our plan was to build one room but HOCIC said we should make plans for two rooms and they will buy all the building materials need for the two rooms. Other well wishers will also help us build the kitchen,” he said.

Mr Mafu a businessperson said he will continue towards the plastering and the tiling of the house. As a way of giving back to the community, Mr Mafu also donated food to the

family.

“I will do the tiling of the house and other things that will make this house beautiful. I am from this community and the least I can do is help my fellow community members who are facing challenges in life,” he said.

Apostle Albert Chatindo who donated food last week, pledged that he will providing the family with groceries every month.

“I will make sure that the family is covered as far as basic commodities are concerned. Every month groceries will be sent to the family. I am very happy that the community saw it fit to come together and help. May this be done to other people as well who are facing challenges,” he said.

## Cities and Towns updates

**HWANGE:** The recent fuel hikes has triggered rise in shop prices. Wearing of face masks is done only when going to town, in the suburbs there is little or no use of the masks.

Concern is being raised on employees working at a main owned by the Chinese who have been quarantined at the company premises from the start of the lockdown up to now.

The DDC’s office has been distributing Covid-19 literature in Nambya, Ndaou and Koisan.

**HURUNGWE:** It is business as usual with all shops operating and all being opened at 8am and closed at 4.30pm. Prices of basic commodities have gone up daily with most of the people failing to raise money to buy the items. Most people are moving around without masks and no social

distance. Private transporters are overloading passengers. No action taken by police. There are no confirmed cases in the area.

**CHINHOYI:** it was business as usual. Shops were not congested like yesterday. A long queue was seen at OK shops as people wanted to purchase mealie-meal.