

**BEITBRIDGE
MUNICIPALITY SPURS
DEVELOPMENT >pg2**

**'FULL SCALE
LOCKDOWN FOR
BULAWAYO AND
HARARE' >pg3**

COVID-19 WATCH	885 cases	206 recoveries	9 deaths
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Byo Mayor finally visits typhoid victims

The Bulawayo Mayor Cllr Solomon Mguni and Council delegates yesterday engaged with families in Luveve who lost their members and those recovering from drinking contaminated water.

Thirteen people died from drinking contaminated water in suspected typhoid cases while about 1500 are recovering. Residents have been demanding answers from the council which had earlier denied any responsibilities but blamed residents for using dirty buckets.

Cllr Mguni said the council took time to respond to the issue as there were some investigations and tests that were being done

"We are maybe late but what is important is that we are here to find a way forward. We have done our reports and tests to locate the root cause of the problem and we are doing everything in our power to rectify it. We are still analysing the reports, the results and what the residents are saying. Should the outcome of the tests find the council responsible then we will take responsibility," he said.

Following the increase in the number of people who were seeking services from the local clinic with the same symptoms, mobile outreaches were done to the affected families.

"When the outbreak happened and after some engagement, we agreed that everyone who was affected should get free treatment and we also did mobile outreach to families, but the problem still persists. So, we are here to see how best we can arrest this problem," he said.

Narrating her story, Cecilia Mangwirow from ward 14 said one day when she was refilling her



Delegates follow proceedings at a joint meeting between City of Bulawayo and Senator Chief Ngungumbane to discuss the cause of typhoid in Luveve

containers, she noticed that water from the tap had a foul smell.

"As I am speaking to you right now I am recovering from it. I went to the clinic three times but every time when I eat, I have a tummy ache. I am scared to drink water from the tap even if we boil it, the water will still have sh** residue. A lot of children have perished due to the water problem, so I have decided to buy water for my child to drink because the water from the tap is no longer safe to give to our children", she said.

Another resident, Mr Chrispen Ngulube said the community of Luveve has gone through a lot of suffering with some of the people admitted in hospital and some burying their children as

well as parents.

"We have suffered as the community and have been to your offices a lot of times. our children died and it is very painful. Since you are here today my hope is that you are going to inform us that It is safe to drink water from the tap because we have since stopped drinking it in fear," he said.

Mr Ngulube said they now buy water to drink but it was not sustainable as it was costly. He appreciated the Mayor and his team for visiting the area as they can now map the way forward with the information they have gathered.

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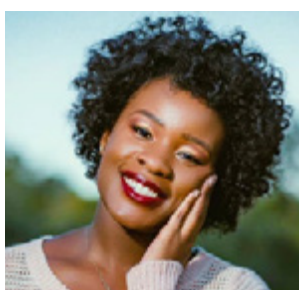
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Byo Mayor finally visits typhoid victims

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“We are happy though that you have managed to take time and visit residents who have been affected. It is better late than never. Bulawayo has been one of the cities that was clean and had the cleanest water in the country if not in Africa, but we wonder what happened,” he said.

“Communication is very vital when it comes to situations like these. If you had communicated with the people, I am sure we would not have even gone as far as having a court case but residents felt that you were not giving this

problem enough attention,” he said.

Ward one Councillor, Mlandu Ncube who is also the Finance Chairperson apologised to the residents on behalf of the city fathers for implicating that residents could have been using dirty containers to store water. However, he said they are also investigating the origins of the statement.

“We are very sorry for the way this came out in the media. We are searching how this statement originated and how it got to the people. After the release of this statement, that is when everything took a wrong turn,” he said.

Beitbridge Municipality spurs development

Situated more than 330 kilometres from Bulawayo is the bustling border city of Beitbridge. The city’s proximity to South Africa strategically positions it as the gateway to Africa. Thousands of human and vehicular traffic pass through the city’s border on a daily basis and this poses a serious challenge to the local authorities’ ability to offer effective services.

The usually bustling border town has been an eyesore for people coming into the country through the border. Big potholes, perennial sewer leaks and undesignated sporadic vending sites were the order of the day in the city.

However over the years, the Beitbridge local authority has initiated developmental projects to address the problems bedevilling the city despite prevailing harsh economic conditions in Zimbabwe.

Speaking during a ZCA budget priority meeting in Beitbridge this Wednesday, the city’s deputy mayor Councillor Munyaradzi Chitsunge said that the council has made strides to address issues that are affecting the border town.

“I am glad to say that the local authority has managed to procure a second refuse truck to add to the current refuse fleet. Since the town is one of the fastest growing urban centres in the country this refuse truck will indeed spur the city’s efforts to collect garbage. The new refuse truck is three times bigger than the old refuse truck which will immensely improve service delivery”, he said.

He also highlighted some of the projects that the municipality has done this year in a bid to realign the border town with best road international standards.

“The council has started the installation of



Councillor Munyaradzi Chitsunge

SADC compliant roads signs. A total of 510 road signs have been installed around town. These include speed limit signs, stop signs, no stopping signs, humps ahead signs, T-junction signs and round about signs. Moreover accompanying these will be construction works on signs that include detour ahead signs, road works ahead signs, man at work signs, excavations ahead signs, no through road, stop and go signs”, said Cllr Chitsunge.

Beitbridge town generally realises a huge inflow of heavy and light vehicles passing through its border per day with estimates from Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) stating that more than 5000 vehicles pass through every day.

In light of the amount of traffic that is passing through the area, the Councillor said that they carried out the initiative in order to avert the prevalence of accidents.

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Beitbridge Municipality spurs development

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“We are doing this to promote road safety and efficiency by providing for the orderly movement of all road users on all roads in our area. Road signs notify road users of regulations and provide warning and guidance needed for safe, uniform and efficient operation”, he said.

Speaking during the same meeting, ward 2 councillor Takavingei Mahachi said that the local municipality has done tremendous work in finishing the roundabout along the Makhado road. He also emphasized that the council has done remarkable work in providing portable, safe water to the residents.

“As the council. We have made great strides in providing water to residents of Sitauze who had gone for years without water. We strongly believe that is in our dictates as the local authority to fulfil Section 77 of the Constitution (Zimbabwe 2013) in affording residents with water hence our intervention”, he said.

The councillors present also said that the municipality has made considerable treads in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. They mentioned some of the Covid-19 initiatives that they have done in the border town.

“Beitbridge town is in proximity to South Africa which is currently reeling under a surge in coronavirus. The town also is a transit route for truckers’ and people going into mainland Africa and thus there is a risk of people in the town contracting the virus, hence the initiative that we are doing”, said Councillor Mahachi.

Meanwhile the concluded meeting saw residents present pledging to attend this year’s council budget making processes as they were now fully aware of the importance of attending. Traditionally the budget making process is done around the end of September to mid-October.

However this year’s massive public consultative processes hang in the balance as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The onus therein is for local municipalities to utilise virtual processes such as social media platforms and Zoom.

‘Full scale lockdown for Bulawayo and Harare’

With the rise in cases of Covid-19 numbers in the country two major cities, Bulawayo and Harare are likely to revert back to a total lockdown.

Writing on his official Twitter page, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Mr Nick Mangwana said Harare and Bulawayo have the vast majority of positive Covid-19 cases and this could lead to them being totally shut down as a means of containing the virus. He said if there would be scaling up of the lockdown the two cities will possibly be on full lockdown.

“Yesterday, Bulawayo recorded 30 of the 53 positive cases. if there is any scaling up of containment measures, a more surgical approach is better. It means full scale lockdown should only apply to Harare and Bulawayo,” he tweeted.

Bulawayo is now leading in terms of Covid-19 deaths after a 54 year old man who worked with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) succumbed to the virus at a private hospital last Sunday. The city has recorded four deaths followed by Harare with three people who have passed on due to the pandemic.

Replying to the tweet by Mr Nick Mangwana, the Mpilo Clinical Director, Dr Solwayo Ngwenya said there was need for more testing to be done so that the government or the responsible authorities could come up with such a decision.

“The virus is everywhere. You will need evidence of mass testing to conclude to that,” he said.

Meanwhile according to local publications another 10 returnees, two of them Covid-19 positive, escaped from quarantine centres on

Monday while police have impounded 857 kombis in a major blitz for operating in defiance of lockdown regulations.

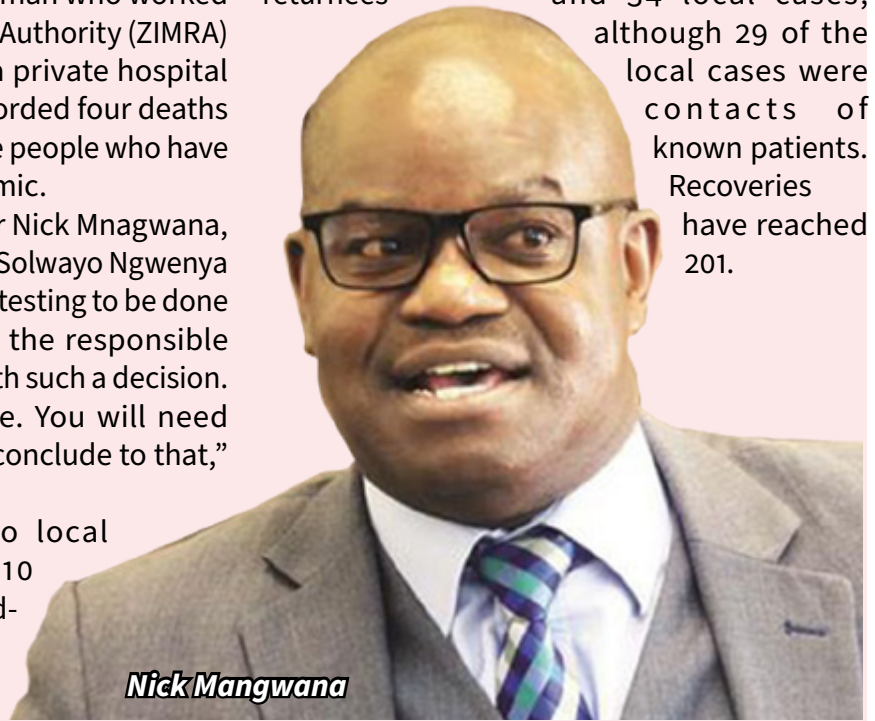
The two Covid-19 positive returnees escaped from Pangani Training Centre in Matabeleland South, with another seven escaping from Bulawayo Polytechnic and the 10th from Mushagashe Training Centre in Masvingo.

National police spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Paul Nyathi said yesterday that the 10 brought the total of escapees to 204, with only 28 arrested so far.

“Of concern is the manner in which these people are escaping from these centres and police are, however, investigating the circumstances. We believe that they are taking advantage of the porous security fences and walls at some of these institutions and other surroundings that don’t have lights,” he said.

Last night, the Ministry of Health and Child Care announced another 54 confirmed cases bringing the total to 787. Of these 19 were returnees and 34 local cases,

although 29 of the local cases were contacts of known patients. Recoveries have reached 201.



Nick Mangwana

Cities and Towns Updates

TSHOLOTSHO: Most of the vendors sell their produce on Mondays and Fridays at the main market. They have now moved to stores on verandas. Restaurants have opened for sit in clients. As of yesterday, police and Council police and Environmental Management Authority (EMA) began giving tickets to restaurants who are having sit in customers.

KWEKWE: Most of the residents in Redcliff

are not wearing face masks. Today the City of Redcliff started testing the Residents for the coronavirus.

PLUMTREE: Sugar is not available. Local taxis still not operating only Zupco buses are ferrying people to and from town. However, the buses are being overwhelmed by passengers. Bottle stores are still closed.

BULAWAYO: Vendors in most high-density

suburbs are selling their wares from different undesignated areas. The targeted places are bigger bus stops such as Ntemba bus stop in Pumula East and Makoni Intersection in Pumula South. Some are selling from their cars and others just on the dusty streets. Traders converge in such places towards sunset to dodge the arm of law.