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<b>Covid-19 WATCH</b>	<b>463</b> cases	<b>63</b> recoveries	<b>4</b> deaths
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# Upsurge in Covid-19 cases

**Z**imbabwe Covid-19 cases have shot up by 62 in one day. This gives the country a total of 463 positive cases.

Sixty-two (62) cases tested positive for Covid-19 today. These include returnees from South Africa (24), United States of America (5), Zambia (4), Lesotho (4),

Botswana (3), Namibia (2) and 20 local and are all isolated

Nine (9) local cases are contacts of known confirmed cases, investigations are on-going to establish the source of infection for the other eleven (11) local cases. 32 of those cases are from Bulawayo and the major concern has been that most of the returning citizens tested

positive, these include people from South Africa, Europe and UK.

This will now put pressure on availability of both quarantine and isolation centres. Concern has been raised that as the cases increase Bulawayo still does not have adequate hospitals that are equipped to deal with the pandemic.

## Pastors essential in providing PSS

**A**s the cases of coronavirus in the country continue to increase on a daily basis there is need for psychosocial support services to citizens who are going through stress and depression in quarantine centres and communities.

Last week, Zimbabwe Christian Alliance (ZCA) provided Psychosocial Support (PSS) training to 15 church leaders in Gwanda District. The PSS series training which aims at equipping church leaders with skills on how to provide support, particularly to returning residents that are on quarantine.

The training envisage to see church leaders playing their part by complementing the already existing government efforts during the Covid-19

pandemic in their respective districts. Currently church leaders in Beitbridge, Kezi, Masvingo, Plumtree, Gwanda and Lupane districts have received the training. Speaking at the training, Pastor Siphosiso Mizha from Brethren in Christ Church (BICC) who is also a member of ZCA local peace committee, highlighted that the training has been timely for Gwanda district.

“Many people have been affected by coronavirus one way or another and are suffering from anxiety attacks, stress, depression and trauma. Through the training we will be able to provide counselling and therapy sessions to those in need at quarantine centres.

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# Pastors essential in providing PSS

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However, our services will not be limited to those in quarantine only but will be extended to members of the church who are also affected by the effects of the novel virus," said Pastor Mizha.

Gwanda District has a total of 2 quarantine centres now, namely DDF and Guyu Training Centre. However, Guyu Training centre currently has people in quarantine. It has a total of 34 people, which is inclusive of 11 ladies and 7 babies. The office of the District Development Coordinator (DDC) indicated that there are in dire need of sanitary pads and baby diapers.

"Women and children are some of the most vulnerable groups within our quarantine centres. They have special needs, and that is why we are requesting donations of sanitary wear and diapers for the babies housed in the centres," said Ntando Ngwenya from the office of the District Development Coordinator.

The DDC, Ms Kilibone Ndou said they appreciate the partnership that the Church was forging with the frontline workers. She said the assistance will be of great assistance during this difficult time.

"It is heartwarming that the church wishes

to partner with frontline staff to support the cause. We welcome any assistance that can be offered during this time, said Gwanda District Development," she said.

Gwanda church leaders were given a hailer to use for raising awareness whilst exercising social distancing as indicated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

"We are set to come up with a clear plan as the trained church leaders to conscientise the public about the reality of the virus. People continue to disregard the effects of the pandemic, but as a church we know that we have a responsibility in our communities. As it has been said, prevention is better than cure, however, in the case of Covid-19 there is no cure yet therefore it is better that our people prevent it as much as possible. We will use the hailer given to us by Zimbabwe Christian Alliance to raise awareness," said Pastor Phathisiwe Dube.

Zimbabwe currently has 463 confirmed cases of the corona virus and therefore it is of paramount importance to raise awareness on the preventative measures that citizens can practice.

# Government rolls out radio lessons

**R**adio lessons for both Primary and Secondary school pupils started in earnest this week with daily programs on all Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) platforms.

In a statement that was released by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, the radio lessons are part of the government's effort to provide alternative teaching methods during the Covid-19. The Ministry also urged parents and guardians to take this opportunity to help their children learn.

"The Ministry of Primary and Secondary education in conjunction with ZBC will be rolling out radio lessons as part of the alternative learning platforms. Parents and guardians are advised to familiarise themselves with the schedule so that they assist their children as much as possible," read the statement.

The lesson will be broadcasted on National FM, Power FM, Classic 263, Radio Zimbabwe

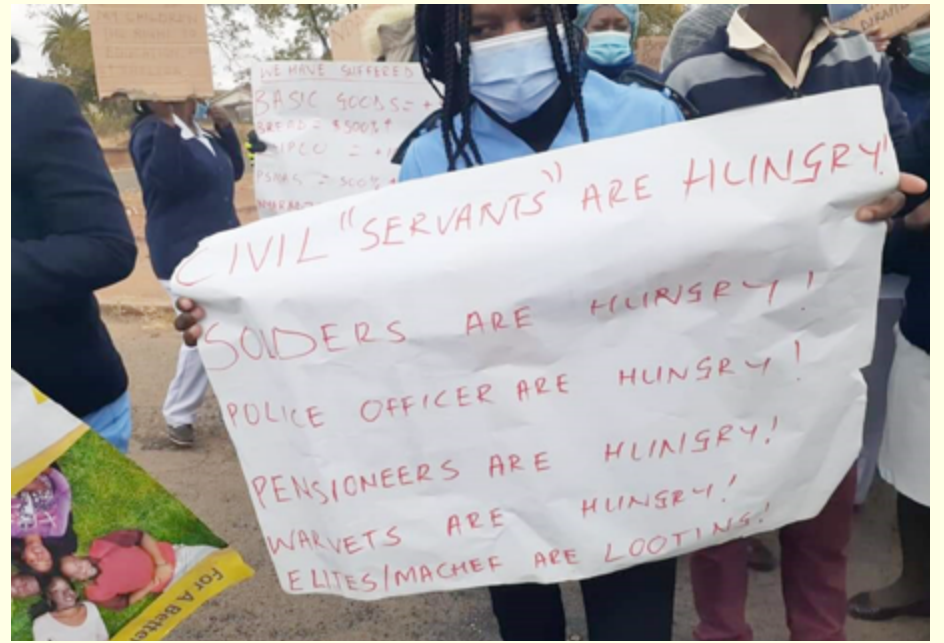
and Khulumani FM. Grade 3 and 7 lessons will be broadcast on Power FM, Classic 263, Radio Zimbabwe and Khulumani FM whilst Early Childhood Development lessons will be broadcast on National FM. Grade 4 to 6 are not catered for in the first schedule of the radio lessons.

In an interview with CITE, the Deaf Zimbabwe Trust Director, Barbra Nyangairi said deaf children were being neglected in the alternative learning methods that the government has offered.

"Children who are deaf have been forgotten and left behind. Children who are deaf and have problems in hearing will not be able to benefit from alternative learning as they cannot access radio classes," she said.

Nyangairi said this will leave behind a significant number of children. She said the responsible authorities could have recorded videos and audios at the same time including a sign language interpreter.





*Nurses and doctors at United Bulawayo Hospital (UBH) and Ingutsheni Hospital in Bulawayo also joined other health practitioners in demonstrating for better wages*

# Rural teachers threaten to strike

**T**he Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) have threatened to demonstrate against the government over low salaries at a time when the prices of goods and services are going up.

Writing on their Twitter page, ARTUZ said the leadership has succumbed to the pressure from their members to take action against the government and demand salaries in forex.

“A street protest is on the cards. On Monday 22 June 2020 we will demand USD salaries from our employer. June salaries were slashed when prices were going up. Against all odds teachers will take it to the streets,” read the tweet.

The teachers also rejected the 50 percent salary increment and the US\$75 Covid-19 allowance citing that they wanted 2017 salaries

which were equivalent to US\$520. Consultations are being done with the other Teachers unions for a possible joint action on 22 June 2020.

“Our teachers have rejected this offer, we still demand our 2017 salaries. We are not a charity case, we deserve to be properly remunerated for our patriotic work. We are professionals not beggars,” read the tweet

ARTUZ said they will be joining nurses and doctors who have begun demonstration against the unfair salaries and increment proposal that the government of Zimbabwe is offering them.

“We are all suffering. We are on the same side of the fence, it is time to unite and confront our real enemies, the authors of poverty,” read the tweet.

Commenting on Twitter, Mambo Kumkani said the allowance that the government is offering

to civil servants is too little compared to the risk and the cost of living in the country. He mentioned that he was a former teacher and in 2013 they earned a reasonable salary that enabled them to save for their families.

“I was a teacher and my first salary in 2013 was US\$501 and I could save 400 then. So now this US\$75 is supposed to do what? We have proved that we cannot manage our fiscal. To think that bin notes were going to be sustainable was very naïve,” he said.

Meanwhile today nurses and doctors at United Bulawayo Hospital (UBH) and Ingutsheni Hospital in Bulawayo also joined other health practitioners in demonstrating for better wages and working conditions.

## Cities and Towns updates

**HWANGE:** Total garage received diesel today and petrol was finished. Prices have gone up, as from yesterday evening after the announcement of the civil servants pay increase by the government. 2lt cooking oil is being sold at ZWL\$350 and 2kg sugar is ZWL\$170.

**HURUNGWE:** People are moving without face masks or travel letters. Social distancing is not

observed at public spaces. Police presence was not intense today. Fuel available at Maps and Glow service stations, diesel @1usd and petrol @88c USD. Shops are selling 2kg sugar at ZWL\$300 and green bar soap at ZWL\$100.

**MASVINGO:** It was a busy day as people contributed to the Constitutional Amendment Bill number 2 public hearings. It is alleged that

there were members of ZANU-PF that were bused to the meeting. MDC youths were being chaotic until members of the police force were called in. Five sessions were held in different rooms in adherence of the lockdown restriction of having not more than 50 people at public gatherings.