

**GUKURAHUNDI
SURVIVORS TO GET
DOCUMENTATION >pg2**

**CHURCH LEADERS IN
MIDLANDS INDUCTED
BY NPRC >pg3**

**COVID-19
WATCH**

617
cases

173
recoveries

7
deaths

Opening of churches increases demand for PSS

Opening of churches will increase demand on pastors' capacity to deal with mental health issues as most of their members were traumatised by the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Zimbabwe Christian Alliance continues to partner with other stakeholders in capacitating pastors around the country with psychosocial support skills (PSS).

ZCA in partnership with Contact Family Counselling Centre is conducting a three day intensive training on counselling and dealing with psycho social issues.

Church leaders at the training agreed that Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way of thinking for people and it was crucial that pastors are equipped with this skill as the community is going through a lot of hardships.

"There are a lot of community members who need counselling, and some are not aware that they have problems that need to be addressed. As pastors it then becomes our duty to identify people who are affected, and this course will help pastors identify and deal with such issues," said Pastor Zenzo Moyo, one of the participants

Rev Useni Sibanda, addressing the participants said the skill that the pastors are gaining will come in handy as some of the churches have opened and victims of domestic abuse will have the opportunity to report cases of abuse.

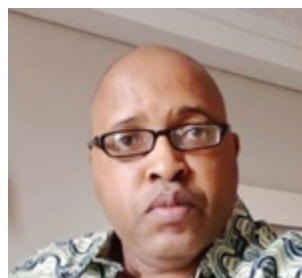
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Psychosocial Support Skills training for church leaders in Bulawayo



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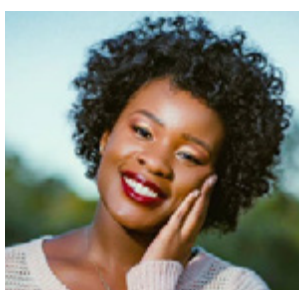
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Opening of churches increases demand for PSS

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“Now that some churches have opened, it will be easier for victims of abuse to report and get counselling. During the intensified lockdown it had been difficult for victims of abuse to get counselling or report as the abusers are people that they stay with,” he said.

One of the participants, Pastor Nyathi who is also a member of the Pumula Peace Committee said the training has opened their minds and made him realise that at times one does not have to carry all the burden to himself but should learn to work with other people.

“As Pastors we sometimes portray ourselves as machoman and think that we can solve everything by ourselves. I realised that there is

a need to work with other people when solving problems and source expertise from other people who have knowledge in that field,” he said.

Another attendee, Pastor Ncube from the Brethren in Christ Church said the training will help them transform the community and themselves. She appreciated the opportunity to be trained and equipped further.

“We are grateful for being given such a wonderful opportunity to transform our communities. The community is in a bad state due to Covid-19 and now another problem that seems to be bigger than the pandemic has erupted in Luveve. People have died and there is a need for the affected families to get psychosocial support,” she said.

Gukurahundi survivors to get documentation

The Government has announced that it will be rolling out a programme where survivors of Gukurahundi can get documentation and death certificates for their deceased family members.

In a press statement that was released by the Minister of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage, Kazembe Kazembe said the civil registry is in the process of availing the necessary registration documents for people who did not have due to various reasons.

“Currently we are working with partners to roll out a registration programme that will be launched in due course. The requirements for one to be given a birth certificate or national identification card will be relaxed after consultations with relevant stakeholders,” read the statement.

Regarding death certificates, the Minister said they are currently working on the modalities with the relevant stakeholders.

“The Civil Registry department in consultation with the Attorney general and the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs is working out modalities to avail death certificates to all those in need of the documents,” read the statement.



Minister Kazembe Kazembe

Speaking on exhumations, the Minister said work is being done on coming up with the necessary framework in consultation with traditional leaders and other stakeholders.

“Work is already in progress with regards to the drafting of the necessary policy framework... consultation with traditional leaders and other stakeholders will be consulted and a policy document will be drafted to guide the process,” read the statement.

Church leaders in Midlands inducted by NPRC

Church and christian leaders in Midlands were part of the NPRC Provincial Peace Committee trained and inducted this week.

As part of the process the church leaders received certificates of attendance that were handed over by the NPRC commissioners.

Two ZCA representatives, Miss Victoria Koke and Pastor Tavengwa Makore were part of the people who received the certificates of attendance after the training,

The representatives said they were happy to be part of the committee that will spearhead programmes to deal with peace building and conflict transformation in their province.

“We have been working with the commission before and we hope to continue working well with them. With the advent of Covid-19 there are a lot of conflict related issues that we have to deal with as part of the committee,” said Pastor Makore.

According to media reports the NPRC said it is still pursuing the call made by the people of Matabeleland and parts of Midlands provinces for President Emmerson Mnangagwa to issue a public apology over his role.

“I am aware of the issue in which some citizens are of the view that President Mnangagwa must apologise for the Gukurahundi disturbances. That issue, in fact, was first raised in the Chiefs Council meeting in Bulawayo. It was during the period when President Mnangagwa wanted to meet chiefs over that Gukurahundi issue,” Justice Nare said.

Commissioner Nare said the Commission will follow up on the issue and engage with relevant stakeholders on how the issue can be tackled.

“What we are going to do is that we would like to first meet with (Chiefs Council president) Chief (Fortune) Charumbira and talk to him about that issue of an apology. After that, we are going to approach Vice-President (Kembo) Mohadi and again talk to him to say this is what the people are saying on the issue of an apology. Some chiefs, mostly in Matabeleland, are still eager to have President Mnangagwa apologise for Gukurahundi,” Justice Nare added.

He also revealed that many people in Matabeleland South, Matabeleland North, Midlands and Bulawayo were still bitter of what happened during Gukurahundi. Part of their plans was to go into the community and hear from them how they want this issue to be dealt with.



Pastor Makore receives a certificate from Commissioner Leslie Ncube during the Midlands Peace Committee training and induction



Miss Victoria Koke (centre) receives a certificate

BCC pushes for out-of-court settlement

BULAWAYO City Council (BCC) is reportedly pushing for an out-of-court settlement with residents who dragged it to court demanding answers to the diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery outbreak in the city.

The Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BPRA) on Friday filed an urgent High Court chamber application against council demanding documentation from the local authority in preparation for a lawsuit linked to diarrhoea-related deaths and infections in the city.

The hearing is set for Friday.

The killer water-borne disease outbreak has claimed a dozen lives, and infected over a thousand people, particularly in Luveve high density suburb, the epicentre of the health crisis.

On Tuesday, the BPRA and its legal representatives met council and its lawyers over the issue, where the local authority reportedly pushed for an out-of-court settlement, a demand the association rejected.

“When our meeting started, the BCC tried to school us on how to engage council through its structures rather than to run to the courts. To cut the long story short, here are the main points: BCC wants an out-of-court process and are saying they can provide us with all the information by Thursday (today),” BPRA co-ordinator

Emmanuel Ndlovu said.

Bulawayo chamber secretary Sikhangele Zhou yesterday refused to comment on the matter when contacted.

“I am sorry, I cannot comment about that, but once we have completed all court processes,” Zhou said.

Government has deployed army doctors while the international humanitarian agency, Médecins Sans Frontières-Zimbabwe, has also stepped in, providing medicines and treatment to locals affected by the diarrhoea outbreak.

BPRA wants the BCC to provide water test results, a

maintenance schedule for its sewage and water pipes, a map of the sewage and water pipes and tests of soil in selected areas and samples of the pipes “that we can send for testing”, among other documentation, for its legal suit against the council.

“We hope to begin class action next week for all those who passed away, those who fell sick and those who were affected. It is very disturbing when looking at post-mortem results, the bacteria in question, which they say causes the sickness, can lead to lifelong permanent failures and some people will be needing dialysis for life (according to experts),” Ndlovu said.

“We feel the council reneged on its duty to care, duty to warn and duty to provide full information. We are not out to punish the council, but to hold BCC accountable to international standards. Our rights have been violated.”

Council has announced that it needed US\$1 482 000 to address the issue of water contamination in Luveve and surrounding suburbs. The council action plans involve the rehabilitation of its water and sewage infrastructure as it has reportedly outlived its lifespan.

Source: Bulawayo24 news



Sikhangele Zhou

Cities and Towns Update

CHEGUTU: in the outskirts people are not complying to social distance and wearing masks at Zvamaida Pry about 6kms from Chegutu when town there was a meeting for farmers over 200 people were present and they were not maintaining social distance nor putting on masks.

LUPANE: Since churches are opening, the Ministry of Health has invited church leaders

to attend a meeting where they will be given guidelines on how to worship safely within the context of Covid-19.

BULAWAYO: Church leaders in Bulawayo are undergoing a three-day training on psychosocial support. The training is being conducted by Zimbabwe Christian Alliance in partnership with Contact Centre. The government has given Ekusileni Medical

Centre the green light to operate as a teaching research hospital under National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Residents continue to complain about water challenges, after reports of it being contaminated. prices continue to soar. Some leisure spots and restaurants have started reopening after the government eased lockdown.