

**RETURNEES MOVED  
TO NEW COVID-19  
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SENSITISATION  
MEETING ON TB AND  
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<b>Covid-19 WATCH</b>	<b>574</b> cases	<b>152</b> recoveries	<b>7</b> deaths
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## Mpopoma residents demo over bond notes



*Mpopoma residents protest demanding local shops to accept bond notes*

**R**esidents of Mpopoma, Bulawayo today took to the streets demanding local shops to accept bond notes as they are still rendered as legal tender by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ).

For close to a month now, some shops and vendors are alleged to have been rejecting bond notes, especially lower denominations such as ZWL\$2, ZWL\$5 notes and coins.

In an interview with the Christian Voice, one resident identified as Mrs Sibanda said they are struggling to buy basic commodities and people are going to die of hunger when they have money.

“Banks are giving us bond notes and you wonder where these hops are expecting us to get bond notes. If these shops know where we can get foreign currency to buy from their shops then they should direct us there and we access the money,” she said.

Sylvia Moyo said the shop owners should tell them what they should do with the bond notes

since they are refusing to accept them. Sylvia is an informal trader and nowadays business has been down as she is not able to buy or sell her goods.

“I used to make money by selling clothes and shoes but due to Covid-19 I haven’t been able to sell anything. The few clothes that I was left with, I do accept bond notes. I wonder why these shops are being fussy about bond notes when it’s a legal tender,” she said.

Another resident who preferred anonymity, said besides the shops rejecting bond notes, they also demanded that shop owners render good service to their customers. She said the shop owners do not have time to listen to the feedback they are being given by their customers.

“If ever you complain of service delivery at these shops you are barred from entering the shops. For example, if you buy milk and then find out that it has gone bad. When you return it, they tell you that they do not manufacture the milk hence there is nothing they can do,” she said.

A representative of the Mpopoma - Matshobana Residents Association said it was important for shop owners to engage residents before implementing changes. However, he managed to talk to the shop owners, who agreed to sell using bond notes.

“The shop owners have agreed to accept bond notes and we encourage residents to report any of the shops that will reject bond notes. If the government is saying the money is legal tender, who are they to go against the government directive,” he said.

The residents also complained of corruption that was happening at the shops. They said when mealie-meal is delivered to the shops, they give it to people who will sell it at black market.

“Once mealie meal is delivered you will see Honda Fits coming to collect it. The same people will be selling the mealie-meal at street corners in forex. We go back home empty handed because of the corruption that is happening at these shops. All this needs to end,” said the resident.





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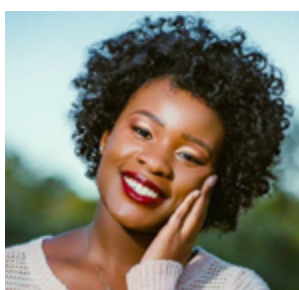
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*Plumtree High School*

# Returnees moved to new Covid-19 quarantine centres

**Returnees that have been housed at various schools that were serving as quarantine centres have been moved as students are set to begin Zimsec examinations tomorrow.**

The Lupane Hub Coordinator, Pastor Renick said most of the schools that were being used have been disinfected as they prepare for exam classes. Mabhikwa High School is the only functioning quarantine centre in Lupane.

“Currently, the ministry is working at opening Elitsheni Complex as the new quarantine centre. Exam candidates who were meant to write at Mabhikwa will write their exams at Lupane Primary School which is nearby,” he said.

Returnees who were at Plumtree High School and Allen Redfern Primary school have also been moved from the schools. Apostle Jephias Ncube confirmed that the returnees have been moved to Esigodini and Matopo.

“Due to the reopening of schools, the returnees have been moved to Esigodini but I am not sure which place exactly and the other ones have been moved to Matopo research centre,” he said.

In Bulawayo returnees are being moved to

local hotels and lodges with whom negotiations are being held to secure the accommodation.

In Nkayi, the only quarantine centre that was functional, Hlangabeza High School has also been closed due to the same reasons as other centres. The Ministry is currently searching for another place that they can use.

“Currently there are no positive cases in our area. The Ministry advised that they are looking for a new isolation centre and they will notify the public in due course,” said Pastor Thandeka Sithole

In a statement released by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, Ambassador Cain Mathema assured the nation that the necessary measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of candidates and invigilators.

“To this end, thermometers, disinfectants, face masks, wash facilities and hand sanitisers have been procured for all examination centres to protect from Covid-19. Examination centres have also been disinfected in line with the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC) guidelines,” read the statement.

# Makonde holds sensitisation meeting on TB and HIV

**T**B remains a serious challenge in the health delivery system in general with a bearing on the management and care of people living with HIV and Covid-19. In the past two years, According to figures from the Ministry of Health, Makonde district recorded the highest cases of MDR patients with 2019 alone having 6 MDR cases and 167 TB positive cases.

In an effort to reduce deaths and late presentation due to religious reasons the district church leaders in Makonde facilitated a sensitisation meeting with faith based and traditional healers.

The meeting brought together 20 church leaders and 2 traditional healers. The church leaders were drawn from all the mother bodies, EFZ, ZCC, ACCZ, ZCA and Udaciza. In his opening remarks, the NAC Provincial Manager for Mash West, Mr. Nyamurera told the delegates that 61% of those who fall sick will first of all consult their church leaders before going to the medical experts. this he said had a foregone bearing on the service delivery system as some patients would be discouraged by their religious leaders from seeking early treatment.

“It is the responsibility of church leaders to continuously speak about the various health precautions as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Child Care”, he said

The Makonde District TB Coordinator, Mr Zingwe facilitated a discussion on the Basic Information on TB and TB-HIV.

“The signs and symptoms include coughing, blood stained sputum, chest pains, weakness, loss of appetite, unintended weight loss among others. TB is an airborne disease that is transmitted when the one infected coughs, talks or sings. The saliva droplets will be containing the TB Bacilli. Lab tests are used in diagnosing the

disease where a sputum specimen goes through a rapid test called Xpert MTB. TB diagnosis and treatment is free in Zimbabwe”, he said

“To prevent TB, infants have to be administered the BCG vaccine. Once one test positive to TB, contact tracing is done. TB is an opportunistic infection for HIV. Drug resistant TB is a stage of TB that no longer responds to medication. This is due to reasons that include poor adherence to treatment, delayed diagnosis or treatment, cultural beliefs, drug shortages, denial and substance abuse among other things. Mr Zingwe also took time to dispel some of the myths that are associated with TB”, he further explained.

Mrs Ennie Kanodereka presented on the issues pertaining Covid-19. She looked at the symptoms, predisposing factors, similarities with TB, prevention and control. The highlight of her presentation was on managing TB in a real situation. She then led group discussions where the church leaders identified their role in TB prevention and care in the Covid-19 context.

“Give messages of hope to the community and encourage the community to wash hands and also properly wear face masks. The pastors are also to discourage religious gestures or signs that involve bodily contact. On counting money face masks must be worn and gloves used. Each church is to invite and give medical experts time to talk about Covid-19. It seems from her presentation that new data in relation to this disease is being found daily as different tests, observations and clinical trials are happening”, she was quoted as saying.

Meanwhile the training that was done today follows similar engagements that ZCA have recently been doing in Plumtree where a partnership with the Aids Council on health awareness was struck. This also comes on the backdrop of a sharp increase in cases of positive Covid -19 cases in the country.

# Know your Rights

Today's series of the human rights watch looks at the rights as enshrined in the

Constitution of Zimbabwe. The main objective of this series is to capacitate Zimbabwe Christian Alliance members and citizens in general on rights and responsibilities that are enshrined in many national, international statutes. Herewith below is an excerpt of some rights that are enshrined in the Constitution.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic it is important to note what the Constitution says about the provision of Health care for all citizens. Below is an excerpt of Chapter 4 section 76 which addresses the issue of the right to health care. This is imperative in the current state where hospitals are poorly equipped and Covid-19 quarantine centres are not managed well.

## 76. Right to health care

1. Every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has the right to have access to basic health-care services, including reproductive health-care services.

2. Every person living with a chronic illness has the right to have access to basic healthcare services for the illness.

3. No person may be refused emergency medical treatment in any health-care institution.

4. The State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of the rights set out in this section.

In light of the recent cases of typhoid and water borne diseases in Bulawayo, it is imperative for citizens to note that Chapter 4 section 77 addresses the need for the Government to enable citizens to get clean, safe water as well as food.

77. Right to food and water Every person has the right to—

a. safe, clean and potable water;

b. sufficient food; and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right

## Cities and Towns Update

**GWANDA:** it was business as usual; most shops are open. Prices of basic commodities continue to go up and residents are concerned as they cannot afford to purchase them. A permanent roadblock has been manned at the entry point of Gwanda Town.

**NKAYI:** It continues to be business as usual. Today police arrested businesspeople who were refusing to take the bond notes. They were later released but they must report to the police station tomorrow. The business community was

a bit shaken.

**LUPANE:** Business usual. Bond notes are not yet a problem with retailers, but Ecocash is rejected. Most small shops prefer forex. Prices are shooting further. 10kg ZWL\$455, Sugar 2kg 3usd or ZWL\$ 300. Use of masks is still observed but some individuals keep the mask hanging.

**HWANGE:** Colliery workers get paid a few days ago. This saw the two Zupco buses being overwhelmed by the numbers of people going to town to do shopping from number three,

two and five. Long queues have been seen at the rank for the past 3 days ago. OK shop has been experiencing long queues from opening till closing time since ZPC and Hwange Colliery employees have received their wages. Fuel came at Glow for USD. A few cars at the queue probably because of the lack of the US\$. On Saturday and Sunday some shops were not accepting payment through Ecocash. Some shops have started openly charging in US\$.