

**HWANGE CHURCH  
LEADERS RAISE  
AWARENESS ON COVID-19**  
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**FIGHTING COVID 19  
USING RADIO** >pg3

<b>COVID-19 WATCH</b>	<b>4221</b> cases	<b>1238</b> recoveries	<b>81</b> deaths
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## Calls for Zim to be on SADC Agenda



*Thuli Madonsela*

**U**nrelenting pressure is mounting on the regional body to address the human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. This follows widespread reports of alleged abductions, intimidation and torture of anti-governmental protestors leading up to the 31st July demonstrations.

The regional body is set to hold a virtual meeting from the 10th to the 17th of August 2020.

“In view of the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the summit and preceding meetings will be conducted virtually with a reduced agenda, focusing on the hand-over of the Southern African

Development Community (SADC) Chairpersonship, and critical institutional matters. The Republic of Mozambique will host the virtual meetings as the incoming chair of the 16-member regional economic bloc,” reads a statement posted by the bloc on its website.

Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and South African Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela have all called upon SADC to act urgently on the Zimbabwean crisis.

“COSATU calls upon African Union (AU) and SADC to be decisive on the Zimbabwe crisis. Please click on the link, to sign and share this petition. The time to act is now” COSATU wrote on Twitter.

## Deceased undocumented Zimbabweans to be repatriated

**T**he Zimbabwean embassy in South Africa has been granted the authority to facilitate the repatriation of bodies of deceased Zimbabweans in South Africa during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Writing on his Twitter account, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting services, Mr Nick Mangwana said its arrangement will enable undocumented Zimbabweans to be repatriated.

“Deceased undocumented Zimbabweans can be repatriated based on an affidavit from the Chief, the headmen or relatives in Zimbabwe,” he said.

There has been an increase in the smuggling of dead bodies in the country by cross border buses, haulage trucks and omalayitsha. Some of the reasons people have been smuggling their relatives was due to the high cost of repatriating and some of the deceased did not have the proper documentation.

In May this year, the government repatriated 693 Zimbabweans who had died in South Africa. All bodies that are being repatriated from the neighbouring country are being treated as contagious except where the cause of the death is a road accident, murder of other body injuries.



*Nick Mangwana*



# Hwange church leaders raise awareness on Covid-19

**A**ggressive behavioural change campaigns are crucial in preventing the spread of Covid 19 as most communities still continue with risk behaviours.

Hwange church leaders within the ZCA hub members have embarked on an awareness programme on Covid-19 with emphasis on behavioural change.

In an interview with The Christian Voice, Hwange Hub coordinator Apostle Siyaphambili Moyo said they noticed that people tend to relax when it comes to observing the Covid-19 regulations which is causing the increase in the number of positive cases.

“We organised a team of six Pastors to remind people of the implications that come with not following the proper health guidelines. We have also noticed that some people only wear masks and observe social distance when they see police officers not for their good,” he said.

Messages are better received by people when they are spoken in a language that they understand. Apostle Moyo said Hwange is a town composed of communities that speak various languages hence their campaign was done in



*ZCA hub Hwange church leaders take to the streets to raise awareness on Covid-19*



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various languages.

“The awareness was done in four languages, that is, Nambya, Nyanja, Tonga and Ndebele. At times we might blame people for not following the regulations, but the message is not reaching to them because of the language being used to communicate. It is important to communicate for the sake of understanding not for the sake of communicating only,” he said.

The team also managed to have one on one sessions with some of the people in the community. He said the sessions helped a lot as some of the members were already correcting mistakes that they were doing.

“After talking about proper wearing of masks, we saw people covering both their mouth and their nose with their masks. Even children could

be seen listening attentively. At some sections, the team disembarked and had one on one talks with the people whilst in some of the areas we could see people standing at their veranda’s, peeping through windows or coming close to the road to hear more,” he said.

Speaking on the importance of Covid-19 awareness, the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance board member, Mr Jonah Gokova mentioned that a lot of emphasis on Covid-19 had been put on enforcement rather than raising awareness and educating people on the pandemic.

“Awareness should not be left to the police and the soldiers. The church has a big role to play here, when the message is coming from the church it has a new tone,” he said.



# Fighting Covid-19 using radio

**N**ational FM radio station reaches more than one million listeners and in some areas like Beitbridge and Plumtree it is the sole Zimbabwe radio that reaches these communities.

The station becomes strategic to reach Zimbabwe's rural and urban communities, especially when conducting awareness raising.

This Tuesday, Zimbabwe Christian Alliance has started hosting radio shows to raise awareness on Covid 19 with different church leaders who are actively combating the disease.

The programme was aimed at raising awareness to the community on the measures that can be taken to curb the spread of this pandemic.

Speaking during the show, Senior Reverend Dr Sarah Nyathi from Harvest House International said Covid-19 has not affected the community only but it has changed the way that churches have been operating for a long time.

She said previously, people would convene in their numbers, but due to the pandemic from the beginning of April all churches were closed, only to be re-opened in June with a limited number of congregants being allowed to attend services.

Rev Nyathi said the pandemic has not stopped the church from executing its duties in the community such as taking care of the vulnerable and bringing hope to those who are facing challenges due to the pandemic.

"The pandemic has also raised anxiety levels amongst people. We are thankful to organisations such as Zimbabwe Christian Alliance who have been providing psychosocial support to returnees in quarantine centres and the community at large through their pastors," she said.

She said initiative such as #Iam4ByoagainstCovid-19 are some of the initiatives that church leaders in the city have been involved in so as to help feed the vulnerable and the elderly in the community.

"Many other churches also have internal mechanisms to assist the affected, as Harvest House International we are contributing food every month. Even though the church is struggling to keep afloat with its own expenses, we cannot the plight of our congregants at a



*Senior Reverend Dr Sarah Nyathi*

time where there is no or little income coming into the home.

The President's announcement for churches to convene at a maximum of 50 congregants at a time is noble move that will keep churches relevant to those who want to gather but it is also a huge risk as some of the churches do not have the capacity to follow all the health regulations that have been set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"Despite that the government has since allowed churches to congregate with the limited number and adhering to the requirements, it is inadvisable to do so given the spike in Covid 19 cases in various sectors across the country. To ensure that the curve is flattened it requires everyone to be responsible and play their part, given the now limited streams of income," she said.

She went on to say,

"When churches initially opened, there was a directive that we must adhere to the Ministry of Health requirements. This meant operating with infrared thermometers, face masks, sanitizers and exercise social distancing within the church. However, the realisation is that many churches are unable to afford these as many congregants now have reduced sources of income, therefore

affecting the revenue streams of the church. It is noble that churches resort to non-physical meetings to flatten the curve," Nyathi said.

During the lockdown cases of gender-based violence have increased due to several factors such as limited funds for day to day expenses. Rev Nyathi said it was important for the church to work towards addressing some of these social ills to reduce gender-based violence cases.

"Zimbabwe Christian Alliance took an initiative to address this issue and produced a video clip to raise awareness on the matter., and it was widely shared on various social media platforms, including Facebook, YouTube, and twitter. The key thing is for people to be kind to each other and desist from resorting to violence to address issues. Whilst things may be difficult, it is advisable for people to come up with creative means of making money such as gardening and chicken rearing to get extra income," she said.

Reverend Nyathi advised the public to adhere to the rules and regulations that have been promulgated to ensure that the Covid Pandemic is contained. She also urged church leaders to remind people that there is hope and the world will heal again.



# ‘Tortured’ Muchehiwa appears before Byo court

**T**awanda Muchehiwa, a nephew to investigative journalist and ZimLive editor Mduduzi Mathuthu who was abducted and brutally assaulted by suspected state security agents, on Tuesday appeared before Bulawayo magistrate Shepherd Mjanja in compliance with the High Court order.

The order, which was issued on Saturday by Bulawayo High Court judge Justice Martin Makonese, mandated the police to investigate the whereabouts of Muchehiwa and locate him within 72 hours.

Muchehiwa, who sustained severe injuries on his buttocks, had to be transported to Tredgold

magistrate’s court in a police ambulance and was accompanied by a medical doctor from a local medical centre where he is receiving treatment.

His lawyer, Nqobani Sithole of Ncube Attorneys in an interview told CITE that due to his condition, they tried to negotiate with the magistrate to confirm Muchehiwa’s identity from the ambulance but the magistrate insisted that the victim be brought to the court premises.

Sithole said they have since filed a report of kidnapping at Queenspark police station.

In his ruling, Justice Makonese ordered Muchehiwa to be brought before the magistrate courts within three days from 1 August.

“The respondents are hereby ordered and

directed to investigate the whereabouts of Tawanda Muchehiwa and produce them at the magistrate’s court, Tredgold Building, within 72 hours of granting this order. The 72 hours aforementioned shall commence to run from 14:00hrs on Saturday August 1, 2020,” the Judge ordered.

Muchehiwa’s captors, according to Mathuthu, chained and tortured him for two days and at some point forced him to drink his urine.

According to a medical report seen by CITE, Muchehiwa has acute kidney injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suffered extensive bruising on both buttocks.

**Source: CITE**



# Vendors pose Covid-19 risk



Vendors at Fife Street markets. (Credit: Chronicle)

**F**resh vegetable vendors risk spreading Covid-19 due to overcrowding and failure by many of their clients to adhere to standard health precautions.

The Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services Minister Monica Mutsvangwa revealed that the markets were a high risk as the vendors coming in to buy were not wearing their masks properly.

“There is a high risk posed by markets due to the crowding, poor sanitation conditions for vendors and improper wearing of masks by the generality of the public,” she said.

Speaking on the same issue, the Minister of Small to Medium enterprises, Minister Sithembiso Nyoni said the markets will operate for six days

and disinfection will be done on the seventh day. She said the new working schedule for markets is a necessary precautionary measure to help curb the spread of Covid-19.

“Markets will operate a six day cycle with mandatory closure for disinfection on the seventh day, all vendors at stalls should exercise extreme precaution like the use of sanitisers and consistent hand washing with soap and running water,” she said.

She went on to say that the government will come up with other measures to be enforced in other places where people meet in large numbers. Nyoni said there should be targeted information education campaigns being conducted so that the community is abreast of the new normal due to the pandemic.

## Cities and Towns Updates

**Redcliff:** It is business as usual shops are closing at 1500hrs. People are not adhering to the law of putting on the Mask. Covid-19 has brought with it another vending business of Selling groceries outside shops, alongside roads and on open boots of vehicles.

**Beitbridge:** on 4 August, 3 Beitbridge Hub members visited one of the residents, Mr Edmond Zeyazeya, to provide Psychosocial support, after he was injured from a police dog bite. He is currently home and receiving treatment from a private doctor, he visits the doctor every day morning. Another man who also sustained injuries because of the same dog, is recovering well, and started to go for work. On the 4th August, another police dog mauled another man, we are yet to get contact with the person. Petrol station remains dry, save for Peters filling station, and the Pagomba one, those get fuel direct from SA and sell it without blending, R22 per liter. Need for awareness campaign on Covid-19 prevention, in nearby rural areas is other plan the Hub have, in response to the escape from the quarantine, since most of these go to rural Beitbridge, and other comes directly from SA to Zim, without passing through quarantine, hence putting community and nation at risk. All shops open in time, and close 3pm, adhering to prevention measures in place.

**Hwange :** Covid-19 Awareness Campaign Report: The team covered Lwendulu and Empumalanga Townships. Nambya, Tonga, Nyanja, Ndebele and Shona were used to raise awareness. The team used the hailer and at some places and points, they disembarked from the car and had one on one chats on the Covid-19 pandemic.

### Observations

One man from his yard was heard shouting, “You are doing a good job.” People loved to hear the awareness in their mother tongue. Through the one on one chats, some showed that they knew the Covid-19 Preventive measures are observing them. Some know the preventive measures but are not consistent in putting them to practice, like social distancing at shops and zupco buses because of economic challenges. When the team mentioned that children should desist from the culture of going to their neighbours to play with their friends, parents could be seen pointing their fingers at their children emphasizing to them that, you heard that you should not go around playing with other children because you don’t know whether those children are Covid-19 positive or not. Generally in public most people were wearing masks. Some are still finding it hard to practice social distance.



4 August 2020

# **PASTORAL LETTER # 4**

## **Zimbabwe at the Crossroads Between Danger and Opportunity**

### **A PASTORAL MESSAGE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION**

***“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called  
Children of God”- Matthew 5:9***

1. The Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe encompassing 845 member bodies representing over 4.5 million Christians wishes to draw the attention of the nation in general, and the governing authorities in particular, to the seriousness of the crisis before us.
2. The crisis facing Zimbabwe is the multi-layered crisis of the convergence of economic collapse, deepening poverty, food insecurity, corruption and human rights abuses among other crises in urgent need of resolution. The recent arrests, prohibitions of demonstrations and the various forms of expressions (online, individual protest and stay-away) of 31 July 2020 are the expression of growing frustration and aggravation caused by the conditions that the majority of Zimbabweans find themselves in.
3. The arrest of citizens and prohibition of mass action has not dented the momentum of discontent and agitation but instead has caused it to gain regional and international attention through the **#ZimbabweanLivesMatter** which has gone viral. Arbitrary arrests, abductions, torture and suppression of people's anger can only serve to deepen the crisis and take the nation into deeper crisis.
4. Abrasive and exclusionary politics can only further fragment and threaten the already weak cohesion of our society. It has rightly often been said that the true definition of crisis is the meeting point between **DANGER** and **OPPORTUNITY**.



5. We are calling the nation in general and the ruling authorities in particular, to urgent action to take the nation out of possible danger into the Kairos opportunity (season) that is beckoning us.
6. To our Government, may it not be said of you what Jesus said to Jerusalem in **Luke 19:41-45**, that which would bring us peace is hidden from your eyes and that you did not recognize and embrace the opportunity (Kairos) offered by the current crisis for the birthing of a new nation built on the values of the Zimbabwe We Want.
7. It is clear and has been so for some time now that a united, multi-sectoral approach is needed to resolve the current multi-faceted crisis. The Government and ruling party alone will not be able to resolve this crisis because of the loss of trust in the current national processes and institutions, and a deep concern that there seems to be no distinction between the ruling party and the Government and that there is a self-serving and selective application of the law while the suffering of the citizenry continues unabated.
  8. We therefore urgently call for the following:
    - a. Dialogue to address the underlying causes of the current crisis and realize the Zimbabwe we all want,
    - b. Respect for human dignity, rights and freedom of expression,
    - c. Observance of all COVID-19 preventative measures in the light of the dangerous spike in infections and death,
    - d. Repentance, deep reflection and discernment built on the current 90 Days of Prayer and Fasting,
    - e. Calm and peace,
  9. As the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), we make an urgent plea to peace and nation building through **inclusive engagement, dialogue and collective responsibility** for transformation.

## Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe

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**#ZimbabweanLivesMatter**

**#PrayEngageBuild**

**#IdentityMissionVoice**