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| <b>COVID-19 WATCH</b> | <b>1089</b><br>cases | <b>395</b><br>recoveries | <b>20</b><br>deaths |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|

## Matshobana residents against the use of Rio Tinto as quarantine centre



Matshobana residents left posters near the Rio Tinto Hostel entrance in protest of the building's conversion into a quarantine centre

**R**esidents of Matshobana have expressed dissatisfaction with the conversion of the Rio Tinto hostel into a quarantine centre citing that the local authorities should look for alternative venues.

Rio Tinto Hostel (ensure that this is proper name) is one of the places that has been identified by the Bulawayo Covid-19 accommodation committee as an alternative venue for returnees who are coming from different countries. .

Residents have placed placards outside Rio

Tinto hostel resisting the use of the facility as a quarantine centre.

Issues that have been raised by the community is that there are water shortages in that area. They noted that having a quarantine centre in that area could trigger health related problems that will not affect people on quarantine only but the community as whole.

"We want clean water, not a quarantine centre at Matshobana please."

Matshobane residents and some of the church leaders said that residents were worried that

people might escape from the centre.

We need dialogue between residents and authorities who want to use the facility, said a church leader, Pastor Nyathi.

Bulawayo is currently facing shortages of quarantine centres as some of the quarantine centres that were being used are preparing for the re-opening of schools. However, the situation could turn around as the cabinet has postponed the opening of schools.

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*Byo Mayor, Cllr Solomon Mguni drinks water at the commissioning of the Pumula water kiosk*

# BCC commissions water kiosks

**T**he city of Bulawayo has embarked on a water kiosk project in the city that will benefit 14 suburbs in the city that are the worst affected by the water crisis.

Through this project, the Bulawayo City Council has installed six water kiosks which carry a capacity of 10 000 litres of water. Yesterday, the Mayor commissioned two of the six water tanks at Pumula South high density suburb.

“The water kiosks are the first to be installed since we introduced this programme to ease the burden of water shortages currently being faced in areas such as Pumula, Luveve and other high lying areas,” he said.

He said since the introduction of the 144 hours of water shedding, the City Council has been providing water through water bowzers but that was not enough as many suburbs were in need of the same service.

“This was not sustainable as more areas needed the precious liquid. We then had to come up with other ways that we can provide and meet the water demands from the people in different areas,” he said.

Cllr Mguni also noted that the local authorities had to come up with innovative ways of providing water to the residents at the same

time adhering to the Covid-19 regulations. He said the partnership with the private sector has enabled them to install the water kiosks which will see people accessing water conveniently.

“The challenge of Covid-19 required that the city be innovative and come up with solutions to address the challenges of having limited sources of water. The water kiosks are meant to address the issue of social distancing and cutting down on the time that residents spend looking for water. They will also enable more areas to be supplied with water,” said Cllr Mguni.

So far the local authorities have funding for at least 21 to 25 water kiosks. The tanks will be filled with water by the council and its partners three days a week.

“Through the partnerships that we have cultivated, the council can effectively address the challenges that the city is currently facing,” he said.

Suburbs that will be covered under the programme are Nkulumane which will have 4 tanks; Pumula South (3), Harrisvale (3), Sunninghill (2), Cowdray Park (2), Magwegwe (2), Tshabalala (2), Lobengula West (1), Lobengula Extension (1), Pumula East (1), Old Pumula (1), Emganwini (1), Lochview (1) and Woodville (1).

# Police intensify lockdown regulations

**A**s the government intensifies the lockdown regulations police have started asking for exemption letters for people entering into city and town centres.

Scores of people coming from high-density suburbs into Bulawayo city centre were turned back from accessing the Central Business District as police officers and army personnel were demanding exemptions letters.

This was the same in other cities and towns.

The tightening of the lockdown was in response to the recommendations that were made by the Cabinet. Bulawayo and Harare were identified as two of the major host spots of Covid-19 hence the need to tighten the restrictions in those areas.

Some of the people were seen walking back home as they did not have exemption letters whilst others were detained by the security agents at roadblocks.

One of the people who decided to go back home before approaching the roadblock said it was important for such changes to be communicated in good time rather than surprising people at the roadblocks.

"Imagine I have wasted ZWL\$16 since I have to go back home without doing what I intended to do this morning. I am a vendor and I was going to buy goods for my shop. Now I have to go back home because I do not have the letter that they want," said Miss Sibonakaliso Ndlovu.

She said the worst part is that they are still not aware of where they get the exemption letters. She said the government should give them a deadline to at least buy their goods in bulk and ready for a lockdown if there is going to be any.

"If we are going into a lockdown then they should let us go to the market and buy our things in bulk. What they did today was a shocker and we do not even know which is the right place to get exemption letters. If you go to the police,

they tell you stories till you give up," she said.

Nqabutho Mabhena who owns a shop that sells phone accessories said he was one of the people that were detained by the police. He said they were seated in open air for some time because they did not have money to pay the required fine.

"It was freezing cold today but no one cared about that and we were all instructed to sit by the rocks near the road. We are trying to fight against Covid-19 but here we are being exposed to the cold and what if one of the people we are detained with is infected," he said.

On Tuesday, Minister of Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services, Monica Mutsvangwa announced that the cabinet had resolved that the current lockdown restrictions be tightened and localised lockdowns to be introduced in hotspot areas.

## Cities and Towns Updates

**CHINHOYI:** It was business as usual. The common problem in most shops is that they are charging in forex and are also having problems with giving people change in forex when it comes to small notes. Residents are forced to buy things that they do not want because of the unavailability of change. People tend to relax when buying groceries or when queuing for Zupco buses. Social distancing is not observed and they have to stand for two or more hours for the bus.

**SHURUGWI:** Soldiers were controlling Zupco queues. They were also urging people to put on their masks properly and maintain one metre social distance. People in Shurugwi are disappointed by the way Zupco operates and having to wait for long hours in queues. There is no other transport besides Zupco buses which are now loading even standing passengers.

**GWERU:** Most residents are worried about the tightening of the lockdown because it means that business will have to stop again.

## Why COVID - 19 is Spreading Fast?

### 3 Major Reasons



They are my colleagues  
So I can speak without Mask



They are my close friends  
So I can speak without Mask



They are my relations  
So I can speak without Mask

**Don't Do Above 3 Mistakes**  
**Wear your mask properly always**  
**Save yourself & Society**