

**LOCAL YOUTHS  
DONATE TO THE  
UNDERPRIVILEGED IN  
PLUMTREE >pg2**

**CHURCH LEADERS  
IN BEITBRIDGE  
WORRIED OVER  
POROUS BORDER >pg3**

<b>Covid-19 WATCH</b>	<b>132</b> cases	<b>25</b> recoveries	<b>4</b> deaths
---------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------	--------------------

## A tippy tap for every home in Binga

**W**hile Covid-19 pandemic is now known in most areas of Zimbabwe, in Binga villagers are puzzled why the buses are no longer coming to their villagers.

Villagers have continued with their daily chores unaware of the danger that is poised by socializing and meeting at wells and boreholes. A massive publicity campaign is needed and also urgent steps to ensure that the villagers are protected.

To address this problem a campaign to provide hand washing facility for every home, public meeting place and churches is currently underway. 15 people at Kaani Ward in Binga district were yesterday trained on how to make tippy taps. The training was facilitated by the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance hub members, Jennifer Munenge, Angela Mudenda and Aleck Mudenda. The training was meant to complement Government efforts in reducing the spread of the coronavirus.

The trained participants were each tasked to train at least 5 more people in their respective wards as a way to promote personal hygiene and curb the spread of Covid-19. The tippy tap initiative by ZCA hub church leaders is a drive aimed at ensuring that at least every household has a tippy tap which will enable people to



regularly wash their hands, as recommended by the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

The trained people were each given liquid hand soap to use for each tippy tap. A hub committee member and church leader, Jennifer Munenge stated that the tippy tap is going to be a simple and cost efficient method which the community will use to reduce the spread of corona.

“The tippy tap is very simple, and requires one to have an empty bottle, some string and 3 pieces of stick only. Once the tap has been made, one has to periodically refill it with water and



some liquid soap. This is a cheap but effective way that people can use to wash their hands frequently without any hassles,” she said.

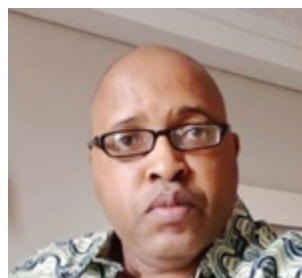
Binga district currently has no recorded cases of Covid-19. To ensure that the district remains with no cases or very few cases of Covid-19, church leaders have taken it upon themselves to raise awareness on the pandemic using a megaphone which was donated to them by the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance. The church leaders are scheduled to carry out an awareness raising campaign at Sikalenge Ward on Thursday this week, having completed the same in Kaani Ward earlier this week.

“We are working hard to ensure that as ZCA Binga hub we play our part to contribute to the safety of our community. We will be sewing cloth face masks to distribute in our community as we have noted that many people in our community are moving around without them, or using makeshift masks which barely protect them and those around them. Therefore as church leaders we realise that it is imperative that we assist in any way possible,” said Irene Moyo.

The church leaders intend to carry out a training of trainers’ initiative to help ensure that the face mask initiative cascades to other areas which they may not be able to reach. 11 of the trainees were female, whilst four were males.



## EDITORIAL STAFF



**EDITOR:**  
**Rev. Useni Sibanda**



**PROOFREADER:**  
**Runyararo Chilenje**



**SUB-EDITOR:**  
**Nqobizitha Donga**



**WRITER:**  
**Rumbidzai Mbewe**



**CORRESPONDENT:**  
**Godswill Muzarabani**

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Phone:** 0292 231213

**E-mail:** zcaprog@gmail.com

**Facebook:** Zimbabwe Christian Alliance

**Twitter:** @zcalliance1

**Website:** www.zimbabwechristianalliance.org.zw



# Local youths donate to the underprivileged in Plumtree

**Y**ouths from Plumtree mobilised food packages for 100 families in Tjiti who are going through a difficult patch due to the national lockdown.

In an interview with one of the organisers, Yvonne Maphosa, said the initiative began with a fundraising campaign with local hip hop artiste, Tafadzwa Asaph Tarukwana to feed the homeless in Bulawayo. Following the huge success of this campaign, she teamed up with Sithabile Gandhi from Plumtree to do another campaign for the people of Plumtree.

“The Bulawayo project was a huge success with many well-wishers offering donations. We realised that vulnerable families in our hometown would be affected the most by Covid-19 lockdown, so we decided to lend a helping hand,” she said.

Yvonne said their objective was to raise funds to purchase 100 food hampers for child headed and disadvantaged families in Plumtree. She said they also worked with ward councillors and the social service department to identify beneficiaries of the food relief programme.

“We raised most of the funds through social media campaigns and we managed to get donations in the form of money, fuel and transport for volunteers doing the distribution. We are very grateful to everyone who made this project a success by donating,” she said.

Yvonne urged other youths in and outside the

country to harness the power of social media to make a change in some people’s lives who are finding it hard to survive due to the lockdown. She also mentioned the importance of being accountable to the beneficiaries and those who have donated for the sake of establishing relationships that will go beyond the lockdown.

“Those who have the passion to do similar projects, do it. Start small or as big as you like but you should be dedicated to their initiative and be prepared to deal with all the stress that comes with organizing such campaigns. One should also account for everything so that donors know that their donations were used for the intended purpose,” said Yvonne.

She said her future plans are to donate sanitary wear to disadvantaged school children and currently she has collected close to 1000 packets of sanitary pads.

“Soon after lockdown we will be donating sanitary pads to school going girls in townships and rural communities. Our wish is to lend a helping hand to our communities and the vulnerable girls at large in Zimbabwe. We will do a lot of charity work as long as resources permit,” she said.

Meanwhile anyone who wishes to donate can contact Yvonne Maphosa on Twitter: Yvonne\_Maphosa or Facebook: Yvonne Maphosa.

“Any and all donations are welcome. There is no such thing as a small donation. Each dollar goes a long way,” she said.



# Private cars take advantage of public transport shortage

Since the announcement of national lockdown stage 2, the number of people travelling to the central business district has been on the increase. This however has caused the only public transporter, Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (Zupco) to be overwhelmed by the number of people in need of transport.

In Bulawayo, long queues are the order of the day at Zupco bus terminus leaving some people to opt for using private cars. These private cars have also taken advantage of the desperation in people to travel hence they charge exorbitant prices ranging from ZWL\$10 to ZWL\$15, whilst Zupco buses are charging ZWL\$2 for a similar trip.

Citizens who stay in Cowdray Park are paying ZWL\$15 depending on the time of the day. During late hours the fee is hiked up to ZWL\$20 and people are left with no choice but to pay as it has started getting cold in the city.

"If you want to get home early you must make sure that you join the Zupco queues before 3pm otherwise your next best option is to use private cars. We knock off at 4pm and that means we have to use expensive private cars everyday and the money we are earning is not enough for that," said a lady who preferred to be identified as MaKhumalo.

Njabulo Dube said there are chances of a lot of people being infected by Covid-19 if the government fails to address the issue of public transport as soon as possible. He said at times because of pressure, the Zupco conductors do not sanitise people as they get into the bus which is a huge risk that they are exposing people to.

"The queues are too long and everyone wants to go home and at that heat of the moment everyone forgets the need to sanitise but scrambles to get a seat on the bus. Another issue is that some of us are not even aware if we have the virus or not. Temperature checks are not done at these buses and there are high chances of people infecting each other," he said.



Most of the drivers using private cars do not adhere to the World Health Organization's (WHO) standards when loading passengers into their cars. At times people are overloaded and do not even consider that there is a need for physical distancing when in a crowded place.

"These are hard times and it is the survival of the fittest. We help people get to their homes and they help us with money to buy fuel. The government should do something about this problem because many people are stranded and there are chances of them being robbed as they use private cars to get to their homes," said Onias Zvarevashe.

Some private car owners have indicated that they are spending up to 48 hours queuing for fuel. It is unfortunate after waiting for so long in a queue some garages are limiting purchases to twenty litres per customer.

"The fuel queues in the last few weeks have been stressful for many drivers. We spend days in a queue only to be sold a meagre twenty litres of fuel. I cannot accept ZWL\$2 for a trip. It is simply not practical," said Bonventure Chitongo, a local driver.

The relaxation of the national lockdown restrictive opened doors for people to resume work hence the transport challenges. People are waking up as early as 2am to catch the earliest bus to town and getting back home late at night.

# Church leaders in Beitbridge worried over porous border

**C**hurch leaders in Beitbridge are worried about the porous border situation which has seen hundreds of people illegally crossing to smuggle groceries. This also comes as some of the people quarantined are alleged to have escaped.

The Zimbabwe Christian Alliance Beitbridge Local Peace Committee has resolved to urgently start the engagement process with immigration, police and villagers near the illegal entry points.

"We want to urgently engage the local leaders, villagers, police and immigration so that a solution is otherwise this could open the door for spreading Covid-19," said Pastor Busani Moyo, coordinator for ZCA Beitbridge hub.

One of the local advocacy leaders Mrs Dube also said that women were open to sexual abuse when these illegal crossings and smuggling are taking place.

76 new cases were detected today of which 75 were returnees from South Africa and Botswana whilst one was a local transmission. The new infections have resulted in the spike of the number of people infected to 132, which shows a worrying trend in the border towns.

South African cases have continued to rise and fear is to also avoid being quarantined some people may be using the illegal routes. Pastor Moyo said that the urgent advocacy process needs to be undertaken with the community to ensure that everyone realises the danger that Covid-19 poses and how these actions are endangering the entire nation.

The Beitbridge Local Advocacy Action teams spend this Tuesday and Wednesday developing local advocacy action plans and timelines.

## Cities and Towns update

**HURUNGWE:** Shops are operating from 8am to 4:30pm. People are going on with business as usual wearing their face masks yet some without. The movement is no longer minimal. Flea markets and bars are now operating illegally. Villagers are also brewing homemade beer(chiOne). Social distancing is not observed

at business centres and at boreholes. More private cars operating as public transporters since there is no Zupco. Transport and basic commodities have gone up

**CHEGUTU:** shops are opening at 8:30am closing around 4:30pm. An army truck is always moving around shopping centres enforcing compliance. The fuel situation is still critical

at most service stations. Garages which sell fuel with local currency are now empty, but cars are still queuing expecting to get on the next consignment.

**LUPANE:** Business as usual. Prices are rising up to alarming levels. Smaller cars are now mobile shops selling basic commodities like soaps, cooking oil and body lotions.