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March 31 at 3:45 AM ·

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOKGWEETSI E.K. MASISI ON THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN BOTSWANA REGARDING THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (31/3/2020) [Full Text]

1. Batswana betsho, as you are all aware, on the 11th of March, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO), declared the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic. Since then, we have seen the devastating effects of this pandemic worldwide. Last night Botswana confirmed with regret three (3) cases of the COVID-19 virus.
2. I have been monitoring closely, the situation with keen interest and it has become apparent that urgent and necessary steps need to be taken to protect our country and its people from this deadly virus.
3. The threat to Botswana has escalated considerably in view of the fact that our neighbouring countries have seen a rapid rise in confirmed cases, some of which have resulted in fatalities. The other challenge is the low rate of testing of suspected cases in Botswana and cumbersome health protocols. The return of some of our citizens and residents from high risk countries has also escalated the threat of the virus in our country.
4. Therefore, after consultations with relevant stakeholders it has become clear to me that it is necessary to declare a State of Public Emergency for the purpose of taking appropriate and stringent measures to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Section 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of Botswana empowers the President to declare a State of Emergency at any time. Where the President declares a state of emergency when Parliament is not sitting, such state of emergency ceases after 21 days. I have considered that proceeding in this manner would not allow for consultation and buy-in across the political spectrum because this pandemic knows no political boundaries. I have also considered that 21 days would not be sufficient to employ the necessary measures to fight this pandemic.
6. Bagaetsho, as a result, in terms of the powers vested in me under section 17(1) of the Constitution, I, Dr. Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, President of the Republic of Botswana, do hereby declare that a state of public emergency shall exist from midnight on 2nd April, 2020 until further notice.
7. I have also decided to summon a meeting of Parliament at which meeting I will seek a resolution of Parliament for the state of emergency to continue for a longer period. The reason for summoning Parliament to meet is to allow for healthy and honest debate, and also allow for Parliament to then authorise for a duration that is sufficient to fight the pandemic.
8. The escalation of measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic from the Public Health Act to the Constitution will allow Parliament to provide the necessary oversight role of ensuring that the Emergency Powers

4.2

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9. In this regard, as President of the Republic of Botswana, I intend to swiftly do the following: issue a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency and summon Parliament, which as you are aware, has recently adjourned, to meet within seven (7) days thereof, as well as sign and publish the State of Emergency Regulations.

10. Whilst the state of emergency is in place, there shall also be extreme social distancing commencing on 2nd April 2020 at midnight, for a period of twenty-eight (28) days. This decision was by no means taken lightly. I am convinced that I make it in the best interest of our Nation.

11. During this period of extreme social distancing all individuals across the country will be expected to adhere to a more severe form of social distancing where movement out of the home is only restricted to those performing essential services and transporting essential goods. Those involved will be permitted to travel using the COVID-19 TRAVEL PERMIT that will be issued by Government.

12. I encourage our people to continue practicing social distancing during this period. Let me once again remind you that social distancing is very critical tool and method in the fight against COVID-19. By social distancing we refer to any public measure taken to reduce interaction and contact between persons. The measures are taken to limit the spread of diseases that are transmitted between humans through touching and coughing. In this case we refer specifically to the COVID-19 virus.

13. Batswana betsho, it is important to explain the steps that follow from declaring a state of emergency. Where a state of emergency has been declared, Section 3 of the Emergency Powers Act (Cap. 22:04) empowers the President to make emergency regulations.

14. Under the Emergency Powers Act, the President can make such regulations as appear to him to be necessary or expedient for amongst others; securing the public safety and the defence of the Republic, the maintenance of public order, and for maintaining supplies and services essential to the lives of the people as well as effective management of COVID-19. Such Regulations are currently being drafted and it is intended that these Regulations will be cross-cutting.

15. Batswana betsho, Government has put in place interventions under the COVID -19 Relief Fund, key of which is to ensure the provision of psychosocial support to all those affected. Other critical mitigating measures in place are monetary in nature, while others will necessitate policy adjustments. The objectives of these interventions are to;

- give support to some workers;
- stabilise businesses;
- ensure availability of strategic supplies and;
- explore opportunities for economic diversification.

SUPPORT TO WORKERS

16. Government will provide a wage subsidy for citizen employees of businesses mostly affected by COVID-19, to enable them to retain employees.

STABILISING BUSINESSES

17. To give businesses some cash-flow relief Government will do the following;

- Guarantee loans by commercial banks to businesses mostly affected by COVID-19 ;
- Give eligible businesses affected by COVID-19 access to credit to support ongoing operations in conditions where credit becomes more difficult to obtain and;
- Give tax concessions to businesses in eligible sectors.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development will provide more details on the criteria and guidelines for implementation of these particular measures.

ENSURING THE AVAILABILITY OF STRATEGIC SUPPLIES

18. Government will ensure the continued availability of strategic supplies to Batswana. These will include;

- A build-up of grain reserves;
- A build-up of fuel reserves as well as a reduction of fuel prices as global fuel prices have dropped significantly;

**UNDP Botswana**

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FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

19. In the financial services industry;

- Banks have agreed to offer restructuring of loan facilities through which each bank will consider each case within their credit policy and parameters. This will include owner-occupied residential property mortgages and motor vehicle loans;
- All commercial banks will offer a payment holiday for three (3) months with the option to extend to six (6) months to the affected sectors;
- Regular payment obligations including life insurance premium payment, retirement fund contributions and loan instalments will be restructured and rescheduled to offer relief for at least three months to COVID-19 affected people subject to individual policies.

EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

20. To facilitate doing business and keep the economy running;

- All Government institutions will pay Government Purchase Orders (GPOs) within five (5) days and parastatals to will pay within 24 hours;
- Improve the efficiency of procurement processes;
- Government will pay all outstanding arrears for invoices within two (2) weeks and extended the validity period for GPOs and;
- VAT refunds to businesses will be expedited to assist with cash flow.

FISCAL POLICY

21. I wish to remind you that Government has established the COVID-19 Relief Fund and put up an investment of Two Billion Pula as seed money into it. I encourage individuals and the private sector to contribute to this fund, the latter, as part of their social responsibility. I want to extend my sincere and deep gratitude to those who have already contributed to the fund.

POST COVID-19 INTERVENTION

22. As Government, our interventions are not limited to just addressing the impact of the outbreak of this pandemic. We are also preparing our economy for post COVID-19 to this end, we are developing an economic stimulus package that will buffer the impact we foresee on our economy.

23. Further details and guidelines to this intervention and the relief measures I have just announced will follow from my Ministers.

24. In conclusion I wish to thank all Batswana and residents for cooperating with Government in fighting this pandemic. I particularly want to express my profound gratitude to those who are in the frontline of this war and I would like to assure them of continued full Government support in their invaluable service to the nation.

25. I wish to re-iterate to fellow citizens and residents of Botswana that there is no need for fear or panic and therefore, no need for panic buying of essential goods. I once again want to reassure you that we have allowed for the transit of goods and services both within Botswana as well as across borders.

26. We are also in constant communication with our neighbours to guarantee the flow of essential goods and services into our country.

27. Bagaetsho, let me once more remind you that we are in this together, every step of the way. Let us adhere to, and comply with the Regulations to take our country through this challenging period in our history as a Republic and be reminded that these new measures are an addition to the already existing health protocols.

28. Let us thank the Almighty God and continue seeking protection and guidance from Him.

I thank you for your attention.

PULA!!!



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Amie Masupa-Nage There's too much confusion revolving around point #11 and that's because we know and understand the word #LOCKDOWN but here we see #EXTREME_SOCIAL_DISTANCING. Please explain what it means

Like · Reply · 3w · Edited



Amie Masupa-Nage Our Government please don't just focus on big companies. Remember small businesses tsa Batswana ba ba iperekang. Most youth if not all who were sponsored by Ministry of Youth to open businesses are renting those business facilities and again customers... [See More](#)

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2 Replies



M'sewah Malama Hosea Peter Chulu

Like · Reply · 3w



Masego Boshomane Tebogo Druryry see here

Like · Reply · 3w



Thatayotlhe Mmusi He mentioned that thy will discuss about how to divide relief fund n who to pay...esp streetvendors n salons etc.....he is to call parliamentary gathering b4 ...7days frm today.lets hope conditions will b fixed

Like · Reply · 3w



Bernadette Princess Buti Thank you His Excellency

Like · Reply · 3w



Baaitse Diao-Kgaudi Tom Kgaudi tla o bale

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w



James van Onselen Evening.... Still so many questions and so few answers. What is happening to small businesses who are not essential? Do we apply? Where? For what? During this difficult time it is important that all aspects are clear. Right now I don't know. Also in ou... [See More](#)

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Treasor Kebasitile Good move Mr President we have no choice but to resort to it. Loss of works and finances and colapsing of the economic will neva be equal to loss of human lives.

Like · Reply · 3w



Paul Dodkins Oreeditse Joshua Doris Keagile



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**Mpepo Amutenya** Irene Dillon

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**Zitha Kagiso** My press

Like · Reply · 3w

**Letlhogonolo Starna Mokootilane** What about kgang ya di rent ne banna! Rea Renta kana

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

**Masego Detiguma** Tebogo Nelson

Like · Reply · 3w

**Lebogang Precious Tiro** Light Moatshe

Like · Reply · 3w

**Jackson Nthokwa** Well done Mr President.

Like · Reply · 3w

**Itumeleng Chaksen Gupta** O bona fa ne go batla setswana fela se se tlhapileng...gore re hlaloganye ba rohle...fa le kopana le rona ka labotlhano lo tlhalose ka setswana re ka lapa rona ka seja tlhapi..

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

1 Reply

**Simba Musari**

Like · Reply · 3w

**Veronica Mbudu** Mutant Sloan Jaguar

Like · Reply · 3w

**Moh Sedge Segolame** Batho what is going to happen on lockdown if I was feeding ipelegeng employees get what I have worked but I have indebted my self at tuckshop

Like · Reply · 3w

1 Reply

**Ryan Seakolo** Ba re sa tlhologanye Sekgoa a re reetseng Dikgang tsa Seromamowa Sa rona fa go balwa dikgang ka Setswana tsweetswee gore re tlhologanye.

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

1 Reply

**Moruti Keorileng** Its time for blue,black and white among us, Botswana Pele,dithoso re tlaa di bona ka kwa.

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

**Katlego Rahube** Omphemetse Mosidi Mogorosi tla o nthuse seja tlhapi mmata

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

**Allison Tebogo Mokgatle** Ke utlwela baimana le batsetsi bothhoko go tsile go dirwa jang fa motho a sena go belega???!!!

Like · Reply · See Translation · 3w

3 Replies

**Luka Lumadede** I like the way Botswana government and the president follow the law unlike many if not all African governments

Like · Reply · 3w

**Padme Cego** Lonitah K Kewagamang

Like · Reply · 3w



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**Pepukai Peps Makambe** You are welcome Kgosi,i will call u later.

Like · Reply · 3w

**Tuli-Managementt Hendjala LA Ekandjo**

Like · Reply · 3w



Gabaitse Zanele Gopolang Bua le companies serving essential goods..most of them are owned by Chinese nd makula,no health and safety officers ..none of them is adhering to these set standards of fighting Covid-19 they are concerned about making...this is a matter of life nd death please check all these companies And make sure they adhere to these or else re tsile go swela matlakala

Like · Reply · 3w

**Bee Osupile** hallelujah

Like · Reply · 3w



Bongani Carter Mangena This is just a warning to the leadership of Botswana , if the money set aside for Covid 19 will be use for anything apart from fighting this virus, i swear to God i will make you my job and i will use whatever means necessary to get that mney back to h... [See More](#)

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Gage Parks Testing for coronavirus is still a problem in Botswana..What happened to 500 tests per day?

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**Thato Merlin Radiposo** Tsholofelo Scana Lebotse

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Tshepi Rats He didn't talk about lot of thing , rent , food, mortgage, loans . My president we r not happy. That doesn't work. People who are not working at the moment, I'm talking about, badimausu, taxi, builders etc, how will they afford anything. U forgot to talk about that.

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Caine Youngman BWgovernment ke kopa thuso. Its not shooting your work or efforts but just so we know what we can or can not do. Ka boikokobetso



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2 Replies



Santanu Das We request you one clarification regarding the start of lockdown. Whether the lockdown is starting at 00:00 HRS 02.04.2020 or at 00:00 HRS 03.04.2020?

Like · Reply · 3w



Kelly Tatenda Mah Why some companies di patelets ba bereki di leave on top ov dat ba bua gape gr iv seemo ga se siame by May ga ba ba duele?

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Deirdre Kirby Our thanks to our President for taking such great care of his people, and BOTSWANA.[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Antonella Carta** Daniele Dal Bon[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Bonolo Matsapa** What about permits?do bonwa kae?[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Barbs Barbie** can someone summarize all that for me[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Johane Wa Mokolobetsi** Rekopa go betswa ke ma SSG ka di phafa tautona,ke rumilwe ke Batswana bolhe[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [See Translation](#) · 2w**Kristy Adams** Ryan Adams[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Gakenapuo S Tebogo** Hesh Tshelo Jo ke mathata, lockdown e ka nna teng bothata Jo botona ke metsi, water utilities promised to put JoJo's around where are they now[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [See Translation](#) · 2w**Milan Chouhan** Where do we apply for wage subsidy?[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Shakes Dikwi** Kapinga[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 2w**Oreeditse Joshua**[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 3d

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April 16 at 1:51 PM ·

GUIDELINES FOR BOTSWANA COVID-19 PANDEMIC (CORONA VIRUS) DONATIONS IN KIND

On 26 March 2020, a Press Release was issued, calling for members of the public, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), companies as well as institutions, to make contributions towards efforts to respond to the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for the control prevention and treatment of the disease and it's after effects.

The response from members of the public has been phenomenal,...

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GUIDELINES FOR BOTSWANA COVID-19 PANDEMIC (CORONA VIRUS) DONATIONS IN KIND**MINISTRY OF PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION****April 2020**

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COVID-19 RESPONSE**Diaparo tsa Bana**

- "Dishopo tsa diaparo di tlaa nama disa bulwa. Re tshwanetse re dire gotlhe mo re ka go kgonang go sireletsa bo mme ba ba itsholofetseng mo mogareng wa corona.
- Ka rene re sa tsenya diaparo mo essential goods ko tshimologong, mme fa re bula diaparo tsa bana re patelesega go bula le tsa bagolo gape; ka jalo go tlaabo go patelesega go hetola molawana mme go tsaya nako.
- Thulaganyo e e ntseng ele teng ya lephata la botsogo le boitekanelo ya go thusa bo mme ba belegang ka tshoganetso basa ipaakanya e tlaa tswelela.
- Go setse gona le ba tsaa karolo ba setseng ba abile diaparo tsa bana ba ba tsholwang; re a ba leboga.
- Ke kopa Batswana go ipabalela mo mogareng. Ka boikokobetso are tsweleng re apese bana tse ntseng dile le teng.
- Se ga se reye gore dishopo diya go tswala dikgwedi tsotlhe tse thataro, gotla nna ntse go sekasekwa.
- Batswana betsho are tsweleng ka go ipabalela re nne ko malwapeng"

Honourable Peggy Serame

Minister of Investment Trade and Industry

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COVID19 BOTSWANA RESPONSE

COVID-19**COVID-19 RESPONSE****Motsamao wa dithoto**

- "Ere jaaka Baagisanyi ka rona ko Africa Borwa bane ba tsenya ditsetlana dingwe mo tirisong, gona leha re kileng ra itemogela bonya teng mo tsamaong ya dithoto; mme kene ka buisana le molekane ka nna ka seemo sa motsamao wa dithoto.
- Re rotloetsa bagwebi go ikgolaganya le molomaganyi mogolo (Chief Negotiator) Rre Butale mo mogaleng wa 71341700 fa ba nna le bothata jwa gore dithoto tsa bone di tsene ko melelwaneng"

Honourable Peggy Serame

Minister of Investment Trade and Industry

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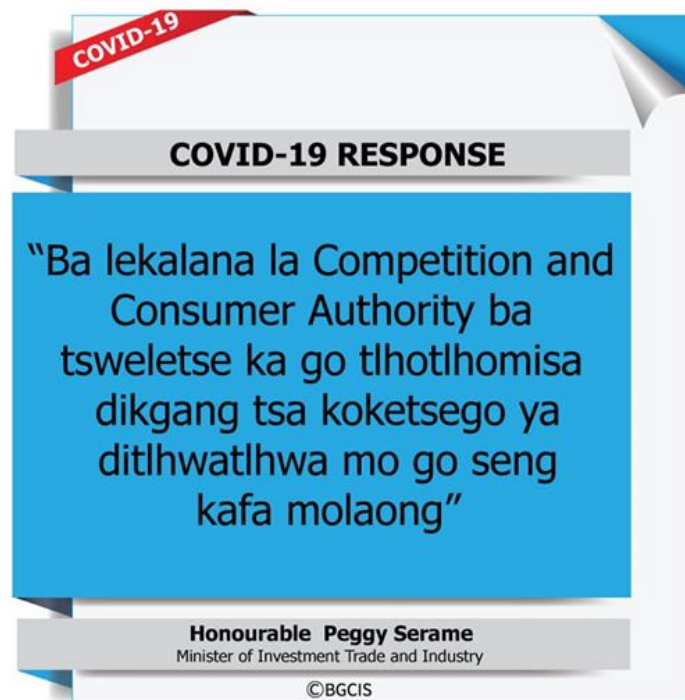


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COVID19 BOTSWANA RESPONSE



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"Marekisetso a bojalwa
a tla a nama a
tswetswe mo nakong
ya seemo sa
tshoganetso"

Honourable Peggy Serame
Minister of Investment Trade and Industry

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Thembi Malema A wa utlwa kenny@kennedy mokwape

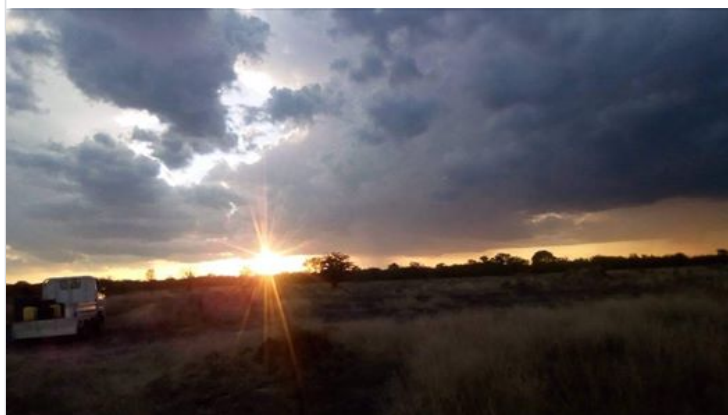
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GOOD EVENING FROM MAKALENG

Photo taken by Oarabile Ramokate #MagicalBotswana



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