

# AFRICA RECORDS OVER 100 000 COVID-19 CASES

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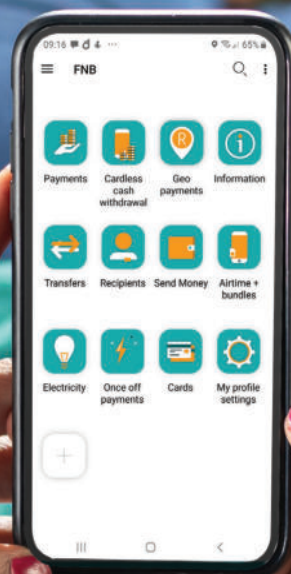
- Deaths surpass 3100 in the continent
- South Africa leads the pack with over 20 000 cases

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# Africa Records Over 100 000 COVID-19 cases

- Deaths surpass 3100 in the continent
- South Africa leads the pack with over 20 000 cases

The COVID-19 pandemic reached a milestone in Africa, with more than 100 000 confirmed cases by Friday last week. The virus has now spread to every country in the continent since the first case was confirmed in the region 14 weeks ago.

Despite crossing this threshold, the pandemic, which has struck with such devastating force in much of the world, appears to be taking a different pathway in Africa. Case numbers have not grown at the same exponential rate as in other regions and so far Africa has not experienced the high mortality seen in some parts of the world. As of Friday last week, there were 3100 confirmed deaths on the continent.

By comparison, when cases reached 100 000 in the World Health Organization (WHO) European region, deaths stood at more than 4900. Early analysis by WHO suggests that Africa's lower mortality rate may be the result of demography and other possible factors. Africa is the youngest continent demographically with more than 60% of the population under the age of 25. Older adults have a significantly increased risk of developing a severe illness. In Europe nearly 95% of deaths occurred in those older than 60 years.

African governments have made difficult decisions and were quick to impose confinement measures, including physical and social distancing, which will have significant socio-economic costs. These measures, which along with contact tracing and isolation, expanded or increased hand washing have helped to slow down the spread of the virus.

"For now COVID-19 has made a soft landfall in Africa, and the continent has been spared the high numbers of deaths which have devastated other regions of the world," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa. "It is possible our youth dividend is paying off and leading to fewer deaths. But we must not be lulled into complacency as our health systems are fragile and are less able to cope with a sudden increase in cases."

The continent has made significant progress in testing with around 1.5 million COVID-19 tests conducted so far. However, testing rates remain low and many countries continue to require support to scale-up testing. There is a need to expand the testing capacity in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and provide additional test kits.

Cases continue to rise in Africa and while overall it took 52 days to reach the first 10,000 cases,

it took only 11 days to move from 30 000 to 50 000 cases. About half of the countries in Africa are experiencing community transmission. More than 3400 health care workers have been infected by COVID-19. It is important that health authorities prioritize the protection of healthcare workers from COVID-19 infection at medical facilities and communities. There is also a need to provide enough personal protective equipment to health care workers and raise their awareness as well as increase infection prevention and control in health facilities.

"Testing as many people as possible and protecting health workers who come into contact with suspected and confirmed cases are crucial aspects of this response. Despite global shortages, we are working hard to prioritize the delivery of testing kits and personal protective equipment to low- and middle-income countries that have the most vulnerable populations, based on the number of cases reported," said Dr Ahmed Al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean.

Despite the relatively lower number of COVID-19 cases in Africa, the pandemic remains a major threat to the continent's health systems. A new modelling study by WHO predicts that if

containment measures fail, even with a lower number of cases requiring hospitalization than elsewhere, the medical capacity in much of Africa would be overwhelmed.

Now that countries are starting to ease their confinement measures, there is a possibility that cases could increase significantly, and it is critical that governments remain vigilant and ready to adjust measures in line with epidemiological data and proper risk assessment.

WHO has offices in every country on the continent and is working closely with the Africa Centres for Disease Control, Ministries of Health, United Nations agencies and other partners to support the scale-up of the response through coordination, technical expertise, the provision of much needed medical supplies and assisting with data collection and analysis. WHO has trained more than 7000 health workers, including 1000 district health teams to support the decentralization of the response. So far, more than 225 experts have been deployed to over 39 countries in Africa and over 900 staff have been repurposed at the regional and country level to support the response.

(WHO Africa)





# Mauritius officially virus-free

As of Sunday, 17 May, the Republic of Mauritius has recorded no new Covid-19 cases for the last 20 consecutive days. This can be attributed to the responsiveness of the Mauritian authorities who did not wait for the World Health Organisation (WHO) to declare the coronavirus as a pandemic.

While the WHO predicted more than 20,000 cases and 1,139 deaths in the group age of over 60 years for the Indian Ocean island, there have been only 332 positive cases, of which 322 people recovered, and 10 deaths recorded – five of which was directly related to the coronavirus – for the entire

population. The island implemented the following precautionary and control measures to contain the spread of the virus: • As of 23 January, passengers inbound from China are quarantined, a measure extended to other Asian countries such as South Korea and Japan shortly

thereafter. On 02 February, there is an outright travel ban of these nationals. • On 16 March, Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth announces the closure of the borders of Mauritius to the countries of the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland from Wednesday, 18 March for an initial period of two weeks. • On 19 March, with the announcement of the first three cases of the Covid-19 virus, the Prime Minister declares a state of national containment from the following day for 14 days. The entire economy is shut down except for essential services and a few grocery stores and pharmacies. • Sanitary confinement is tightened three days later and then extended for the first time until 15 April, a second time till 04 May and finally a third time to 01 June, with a gradual opening of certain sectors of the economy from 15 May. The Prime Minister justifies this extension so that the stabilisation of the spread of the virus would not be annihilated by a second wave of the disease.

**Controlling and stabilising the coronavirus** The closure of the borders first for the Asian countries affected by Covid-19 and then for all other countries, and the quarantine of Mauritians and residents coming from abroad,

demonstrated the will to prevent the coronavirus from reaching the coasts of Mauritius. The experience of local health services for diseases such as malaria had greatly helped in monitoring contact tracing of people found to be positive. In addition, the centralisation and creation of isolation units for people in need of intensive care also helped to minimise the spread of the virus. A policy also helped by the creation of quarantine centres to accommodate all returnees through government and the private sector collaboration, saw no less than eight hotels become available to the government for quarantine purposes. In addition, Rodrigues Island, another part of the Mauritian Republic, located 600 km from Port-Louis, and also a popular tourist destination, recorded no cases of the virus, while the sanitary confinement there lasted only 14 days. Although no new cases have been detected for 20 days, vigilance has not been relaxed. Tests for the Covid-19 virus continue for all those who worked during the confinement period, including medical personnel, police and employees of grocery stores. To date, 87,177 tests of Covid-19 have been performed and 149 people are still in quarantine. (Bizcom)

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## Batswana Risk A 'Return To Lockdown'

Health authorities in Botswana have warned the public to adhere to social distancing and other health protocols or risk returning to the extreme

social distancing that was lifted on Thursday last week. The COVID19 Task Force team ended the 48-day lockdown or extreme social distancing

period on Wednesday at midnight.

Botswana moved from the extended locked effected on April 2, allowing people to go

back to work and opening up the economy, but with protocols that have to be followed to curb the spread of the novel corona virus. In the same week that the country recorded 5 new cases of imported covid-19 cases.

The Southern African nation has divided the country into 9 zones within which travel will not require permits. However, inter zonal travel will continue to require permits a s a way to monitor movement in an endeavor to control and contain the disease.

A day after the lifting some lockdown requirements that included use of permits to travel within zones, the coordinator of the Covid-19 Task Force Dr Kereng Masupu made a public statement warning that the country may go back into lockdown again if protocols are not adhered to.

This came after the Task Force team visited some parts of the country and found compliance by some members of the public to be wanting. Masupu said it was worrying that the use of masks as required by law was being disregarded, while social distancing is also ignored.

"If this kind of behavior persists, we will have no choice but to advise government to take the country into lockdown again," Masupu warned.

As the country entered a COVID19 lockdown free period of the 6 months state of emergency, government allowed businesses and schools to reopen under strict conditions in the final phase of the gradual re-opening of the economy.

Masupu announced earlier last week that as part of the containment strategy, the country has been divided into 9 COVID-19 zones to restrict the movement of people and allow swift responses in the event of an aggressive outbreak.

Dr Masupu however warned that the fight against the pandemic is still on and country could still reinstate lockdown measures should there be a spike in new COVID-19 cases. Stringent conditions have been set for businesses and schools wishing to reopen such as body temperatures checks, regular disinfection of premises and the wearing of masks.

## A Layman's Introduction to cybersecurity

### Understanding cyberattacks on computers, networks and data.

By Theo Bogatsu

Socialisation pundits have spoken; the post COVID-19 era is bringing in a 'new normal'.

Part of this new normal is increased digital interconnectedness. In the new normal, people are expected to fulfill their professional and life vocations remotely through the use of cyber technology. Communications networks will be right at the centre of this transformation.

As handy as it is becoming, cyber technology requires a high sense of enlightenment and caution on the part of the user for impact to be made. Cyber space is infested with all kinds of security threats that, if not tackled appropriately, can cause damage to data, networks, computers or any gadgets used to access technology.

Cyber crime, cyber terrorism, cyberbullying and misinformation are among the leading threats to sustainable use of the internet.

As many are expected to increase their usage of communications networks through remote connectivity, either at homes or mobile, it is crucial that one applies the necessary measures to prevent cyberattacks. Computer and network security should longer just be the preserve of institutional

settings anymore. Home networks and mobile gadgets are and will increasingly become targets, particularly in the anticipated highly digitalized 'new normal'.

This article therefore seeks to raise awareness on cybersecurity threats and outline measures that one can apply to protect their networks and gadgets

#### What is cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity which is sometimes referred to as Information Security is the practice of protecting Systems, Applications and Networks from Digital Attacks. The approach to Cybersecurity is multi-layered and in organizations the People, Process and Technology must all work together for a successful defense against Cyber Attacks. At the core of Information Security is Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability more commonly known as the CIA triad, these three elements are essentially the goals for information Security.

Common cyberattacks in Botswana? (Home networks and office networks)

In general, the most common cyber-attacks in Botswana are Social Engineering related type of attacks, (One way or another we have all come across this type of attack, as you will come to realize). As the name

suggests Social Engineering is the psychological manipulation of someone into performing actions or divulging confidential information or information they wouldn't otherwise share publicly. The attacker lures an unsuspecting victim into clicking a link or visiting an infected website with the goal of infecting or inserting malware on the victim's endpoint.

There are several ways that a Social Engineering attack can be carried out from Phishing, Vishing, Smishing, Pretexting, Waterholing etc but the most common way that a social Engineering attack is carried out and the method that I will be covering here is through a method referred to as Phishing.

Phishing- Which is typically carried out via email is a technique where the attacker tries to fraudulently get hold of personal or private information or it could just be to trick the victim into clicking a link that could install some malware into your machine- leading to other type of attacks.

There are several types of Phishing and ironically, they also have specific names attached to them beyond the general term of "Phishing". I will just touch on only two types being Spear Phishing and Whaling.

To give further context to the two types mentioned above-

In general Phishing is usually a broadcast or an email sent to a large number of people by the Attacker also known as the Phisher. At one point we have all received an email purportedly from a legitimate or known source asking as to claim a prize, to follow a link to get freebies or fill out a questionnaire and stand a chance to win a fancy gadget.

Spear Phishing is a targeted type of Phishing attack, usually targeted towards someone who handles data or a function of interest, this could be someone who makes payments or handles the payroll or just anyone in relation to what the attacker is trying to achieve.

Whaling on the other hand is the same as Spear Phishing except that the target is a high-profile individual, this could be the CEO, CFO or even a board member as these individuals usually have access to classified information.

Other Common cyber-attacks that have been around for a long time are Malware and Ransomware Attacks briefly described below.

Malware which is a word derived from malicious software is software code which is written specifically for the purpose of malicious intentions, this could be delivered to a victim through Phishing or just by a user clicking on random

links on the internet and sometimes it comes hidden in free applications which users usually download to avoid paying for software.

Ransomware In its basic form just lures a user into clicking a link that will install some malicious ware on your machine inevitably encrypting all your data and "holding you at ransom". If payment is not made the attacker doesn't give you the key to unencrypt your data and you end up losing your data.

With digital currency around these days the attacker may demand payment in bitcoins as it is faster and could be quite difficult to trace the destination of the funds.

Common ways computers and networks become exposed

The most common ways Computer systems become exposed is because of lack of security updates/patches. Criminals are constantly looking for loopholes to take advantage of and application owners and software developers need to be on their toes, whenever a vulnerability is discovered in their software/application they need to act fast and release a patch to protect their integrity and their users. More often than not attackers gain control of a server or computer system through an existing vulnerability, this could be delivered by means of malware which is installed on a computer system by means of a Phishing attack. Read Part 2 in next week's edition.

\* Theo Bogatsu is a Network Security Engineer at BOFINET





# Global solidarity with Africa is an imperative

As Covid-19 spreads across the continent, Africa has responded swiftly to the pandemic and, as of now, reported cases are lower than feared. Even so, much hangs in the balance.

In recent years, Africans have done much to advance the well-being of the continent's people. Economic growth has been strong. The digital revolution has taken hold. A free trade area has been agreed.

But the pandemic threatens African progress. It will aggravate long-standing inequalities and heighten hunger, malnutrition and vulnerability to disease. Already, demand for Africa's commodities, tourism and remittances are declining. The opening of the trade zone has been pushed back – and millions could be pushed into extreme poverty. The virus has taken more than 2,500 African lives. Vigilance and preparedness are critical.

I commend what African countries have done already, together with the African Union. Most have moved rapidly to deepen regional coordination, deploy health workers, and enforce quarantines, lockdowns and border closures. They are also drawing on the experience of HIV/Aids and Ebola to debunk rumours and overcome mistrust of government, security forces and health workers.

### Solidarity with Africa

I express my total solidarity with the people and governments of Africa in tackling Covid-19. United Nations agencies, country teams, peacekeeping operations and humanitarian workers are providing support. United Nations solidarity flights have delivered millions of test kits, respirators and other supplies, reaching almost the entire continent.

The policy brief we are issuing today highlights a spectrum of urgent challenges.

Many difficult decisions will need to be taken as the pandemic unfolds, and it will be essential to retain the trust and participation of citizens throughout.

We are calling for international action to strengthen Africa's health systems, maintain food supplies, avoid a financial crisis, support education, protect jobs, keep households and businesses afloat, and cushion the continent against lost income and export earnings.

### Vaccine access

African countries should also have quick, equal and affordable

access to any eventual vaccine and treatment, that must be considered global public goods.

I have been calling for a global response package amounting to at least 10% of the world's gross domestic product. For Africa, that means more than \$200bn as additional support from the

international community.

I also continue to advocate a comprehensive debt framework – starting with an across-the-board debt standstill for countries unable to service their debt, followed by targeted debt relief and a comprehensive approach to structural issues in the international debt architecture to prevent defaults.

It will also be essential for African countries to sustain their efforts to silence the guns and address violent extremism – and

I welcome African support for my call for a global ceasefire. Political processes and elections in the coming months offer potential milestones for stability and peace.

### Women and youth

Women will be central to every aspect of the response. Stimulus packages must prioritise putting cash in the hands of women and increasing social protection. We must empower African youth. The human rights of all must be

respected.

Many difficult decisions will need to be taken as the pandemic unfolds, and it will be essential to retain the trust and participation of citizens throughout.

These are still early days for the pandemic in Africa, and disruption could escalate quickly. Global solidarity with Africa is an imperative – now and for recovering better. Ending the pandemic in Africa is essential for ending it across the world. (Bizcomm.)



## INVITATION TO NATIONAL SMME REGISTRATION

The Local Enterprise Authority (LEA) has embarked on a national initiative to register informal and formal SMMEs operating in Botswana. The main objective of the registration exercise is to develop a centralized database of all trading SMME businesses countrywide; which will inform the development of targeted support programmes and policies that will effectively benefit the SMME sector.

Register your business online at:  
**<https://smeregistration.lea.co.bw>** OR simply dial **\*165#** on your mobile phone and follow the instructions.

In order to facilitate decision making on availing COVID-19 relief, informal sector businesses are required to have registered by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. In future, SMME business development support by Government will only be availed to those registered on the SMME database, therefore SMMEs are encouraged to continue registering beyond 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

For any enquiries regarding SMME business registration, contact the following numbers: 71696870, 77423708, 75016935, 71667681  
**OR** email **[Botsalea@lea.co.bw](mailto:Botsalea@lea.co.bw)**



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# Archaeology Shows How Ancient African Societies Managed Pandemics

Every so often, a pandemic emerges that dramatically alters human society. The Black Death (1347 – 1351) was one; the Spanish flu of 1918 was another. Now there’s COVID-19.

Archaeologists have long studied diseases in past populations. To do so, they consider a wide array of evidence: settlement layout, burials, funerary remains, and human skeletons.

For example, because of archaeologists we know that the damaging impact of epidemics prompted the abandonment of settlements at Akrokrowa in Ghana during the early 14th century AD. About 76 infant burial sites at an abandoned

settlement that now forms part of the Mapungubwe World Heritage site in the Limpopo Valley of South Africa suggest a pandemic hit the people living there after 1000 AD.

Archaeological and historical insights also expose some of the strategies that societies adopted to deal with pandemics. These included burning settlements as a disinfectant and shifting settlements to new locations. Social distancing was practised by dispersing settlements. Archaeologists’ findings at Mwenezi in southern Zimbabwe also show that it was a taboo to touch or interfere with remains of the dead, lest diseases be transmitted in this way. In the

late 1960s, some members of an archaeological dig excavating 13th century house floors in Phalaborwa, South Africa, refused to keep working after encountering burials they believed were sacred. They also worried that the burials were related to a disease outbreak.

Social distancing and isolation have become watchwords during the COVID-19 pandemic. From archaeology, we know that the same practices formed a critical part of managing pandemics in historical African societies. In what is Zimbabwe today, the Shona people in the 17th and 18th centuries isolated those suffering from infectious diseases – such as leprosy – in temporary residential structures. This meant that very few people could come into contact with the sick. In some cases, corpses were burnt to avoid spreading the contagion.

Humans have a propensity to relax and shift priorities once calamities are over. Data collected by archaeologists, that show how indigenous knowledge systems helped ancient societies in Africa deal with the shock of illness and pandemics, can help remind policy makers of different ways to prepare modern societies for the same issues.

Social distancing and isolation

Research at the early urban settlement of K2, part of the Mapungubwe World Heritage site, has thrown significant light

on ancient pandemics.

The inhabitants of K2 (which dates back to between AD1000 and AD1200) thrived on crop agriculture, cattle raising, metallurgy, hunting and collecting food from the forest. They had well developed local and regional economies that fed into international networks of exchange with the Indian Ocean rim. Swahili towns of East Africa acted as conduits.

Archaeological work at K2 uncovered an unusually high number of burials (94), 76 of which belonged to infants in the 0–4 age category. This translated into a mortality rate of 5%. The evidence from the site shows that the settlement was abruptly abandoned around the same time as these burials. That means a pandemic prompted the community’s decision to shift to another settlement.

Shifting to another region of Africa, archaeological work at early urban settlements in central and southern Ghana identified the impact of pandemics at places such as Akrokrowa (AD950 – 1300) and Asikuma–Odoben–Brakwa in the central district of Ghana.

These settlements, like others in the Birim Valley of southern Ghana, were bounded by intricate systems of trenches and banks of earth. Evidence shows that after a couple of centuries of continuous and stable occupation, settlements were abruptly abandoned. The

period of abandonment appears to coincide with the devastation of the Black Death in Europe.

Post-pandemic, houses were not rebuilt; nor did any rubbish accumulate from daily activities. Instead, the disrupted communities went to live elsewhere. Because there are no signs of long term effects – in the form of long periods of hardship, deaths or drastic socioeconomic or political changes – archaeologists believe that these communities were able to manage and adapt to the pandemic.

Analysis of archaeological evidence reveals that these ancient African communities adopted various strategies to manage pandemics. These include burning settlements as a disinfectant before either reoccupying them or shifting homesteads to new locations. African indigenous knowledge systems make it clear that burning settlements or forests was an established way of managing diseases.

The layout of settlements was also important. In areas such as Zimbabwe and parts of Mozambique, for instance, settlements were dispersed to house one or two families in a space. This allowed people to stay at a distance from each other – but not too far apart to engage in daily care, support and cooperation. While social coherence was the glue that held society together, social distancing was inbuilt, in a supportive way. Communities knew that outbreaks were unpredictable but possible, so they built their settlements in a dispersed fashion to plan ahead.

These behaviours were also augmented by diversified diets that included fruits, roots, and other things that provided nutrients and strengthened the immune system.

Africa’s past and the future of pandemics


There were multiple long-term implications of pandemics in these communities. Perhaps the most important was that people organised themselves in ways that made it easier to live with diseases, managing them and at the same time sticking to the basics such as good hygiene, sanitation and environmental control. Life did not stop because of pandemics: populations made decisions and choices to live with them.

Some of these lessons may be applied to COVID-19, guiding decisions and choices to buffer the vulnerable from the pandemic while allowing economic activity and other aspects of life to continue. As evidence from the past shows, social behaviour is the first line of defence against pandemics: it’s essential this be considered when planning for the latest post-pandemic future.

(TheConversation.)







De Beers Group celebrates the dedication, hard work, sacrifice and resilience demonstrated by all COVID-19 frontline workers in Botswana. We recognise your commitment towards ensuring that the entire nation withstands and recovers from this global pandemic.

From the men and women in mines across the country, to health workers working hard to save lives, travel operators safely transporting goods and people, shop assistants who remain resilient to serve people daily, crop producers and farmers who put meals on tables, immigration and customs officials for their hard work, utility workers, bankers who serve with pride amidst the challenging conditions, house helpers who opted to continue working during this time, social workers, District Commissioners and Post Office officials who dispatch various grants and food parcels to those in need, the Church, business leaders, Dikgosi, Councillors and Parliamentarians for your leadership during this time, re a leboga. Thank You.

In line with our De Beers Group value 'Put Safety First,' we applaud you for continuing to work safely every single day to eliminate the risk of infection.

# Thank you all! Re A Leboga!

**Bruce Cleaver**  
CEO, De Beers Group

**DE BEERS GROUP**



# Call for creative arts

FNBB in partnership with FNBB Foundation is making a nationwide call for creative arts submissions. The creative community has been hard hit by the Covid-19 pandemic,

prompting us to in  
**lame** initiative aim  
difficult time

## Creative arts to be covered include;

### LITERARY ARTS

- FNBB wishes to appoint a facilitator to run a digital writer's workshop.
- Following the workshop, the attendants will be entered into an essay competition – which the facilitator will coordinate and adjudicate (theme to be determined at a later date).
- The top 5 best essay's will be rewarded as follows; **P5000 each.**
- The facilitator will be rewarded with **P10 000.**
- Submit your proposal to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw), no later than **29 May 2020.**
- The review process may take up to 1 week.
- The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

### ONLINE MUSIC SHOW

- FNBB will sponsor 5 online music shows at **P25,000 each.**
- Producers can submit their profiles and recorded files to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw) no later than **22 May 2020.**
  - Duration of the show should be **3 hours.**
  - A selected FNBB Committee will review submissions and evaluate in accordance with creativity, quality, diversity of music genres covered and economic impact to other artists.
  - The review process may take up to 1 week.
  - The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
  - The content remains the intellectual property of the artist post the competition.
  - Only successful candidates will be contacted.

### MUSIC

- FNBB has partnered with a local radio station to run a music show where artists will be challenged to record and submit songs that have an underlying message on the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A committee comprising of members from both the bank and the radio station will evaluate the submissions for shortlisting.
  - Shortlisting of songs will be based on submissions received per music genre.
  - Songs shortlisted will be entered into a competition where the top 3 songs will be rewarded as follows: First Prize P25,000, Second Prize P15,000 and Third Prize P10,000.
  - The content remains the intellectual property of the owner post the competition.
  - The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
  - Further details of the show including the submission process will be announced on Radio and Social Media.

### COMEDY

- Call for comedians to submit skits not exceeding 5 minutes.
- These skits should be relevant to a chosen topic; life under lockdown. There is a laughable side to lockdown.
- Share your 5 minutes skits on social media (Facebook) using the following hashtags; #FNBBComedy #SupportCreativeArts.
- The FNBB Committee will review all submissions in accordance with originality and creativity.
- Upload or share your skits on your Facebook profile, no later than **29 May 2020.**
- The review process may take up to 1 week.
- A total of 20 skits will be awarded P2 500 each for their contents being featured on the show (the idea is to reach out to as many artists as possible, and for each person to benefit from their content being used).
- The content remains the intellectual property of the artist post the initiative.
- The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

### FASHION

- Call for proposals to engage an entity to create face masks for vulnerable communities.
- This entity will facilitate this project, by calling on 10 fashion designers across Botswana to produce a total of 1000 face masks.
- This initiative is in support of the lockdown relaxation requirements as communicated by the Government of Botswana.
- Submit your proposal to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw), no later than **22 May 2020.**
- The review process may take up to 1 week.
- The successful entity will be rewarded sponsorship funds valued at **P50 000.**
- The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

### DANCE

- FNBB will sponsor 4 successful choreographers valued at P8,500 each.
- Interested Choreographers can submit their proposals no later than **29 May 2020.**
  - A selected FNBB Committee will review proposals, experience, creativity and skills.
  - The tutorials will run from 05 June to 15 June 2020.
  - Tutorial participants will be watched, live-streamed and recorded using the following hashtags #FNBBDance #SupportCreativeArts
  - The initiative is open to Botswana citizens only.
  - The content remains the intellectual property of the artist post the initiative.
  - Only successful candidates will be contacted.

# FNBB

How can we help you?

Submit your creative proposal to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw)

T's & C's apply.

For more information call

 **395 9881**  **0800 302 302** (BT)



[www.facebook.com/FNBB](https://www.facebook.com/FNBB)



@FNBB\_Botswana



# submissions



Introduce the **Bodiragatsi Jwame, Lentswe**  
aimed at supporting creative arts during this

## POETRY

- FNBB will extend sponsorship for 2 online poetry sessions each valued at **P25,000**.
- The theme of the poetry sessions will be Impact of Covid-19 on the Creative Arts.
  - Duration of the show should be 2 hours.
  - Interested participants can submit their profiles and recorded files to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw) no later than **29 May 2020**.
  - A selected FNBB Committee will review submissions and evaluate in accordance with structure of the poem, creativity and story line.
  - The review process may take up to 1 week.
  - The initiative is open to Batswana citizens only.
  - The content remains the intellectual property of the artist post the competition.
  - Only successful candidates will be contacted.

## FINE ARTS

- FNBB is looking to engage 2 associations that specialize in fine arts.
- The associations should have the experience and reach to facilitate online art lessons that will lead into an art competition.
- The jobs will be spread across different categories such as painting, drawing or sculpting.
- Submit your proposal to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw), no later than **29 May 2020**.
- The review process may take up to 1 week.
- Successful entities will be rewarded with sponsorship funds valued at **P35 000** each
- The initiative is open to Batswana citizens only.
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

## SHORT FILM DOCUMENTARIES

- FNBB wishes to sponsor a total of 3 short documentaries (30minutes max) on the following topics:
  - Depicting impact of Covid-19 on the creative industry.
  - General documentary of life during Covid-19 in Botswana.
- Submit your proposal to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw), no later than **29 May 2020**.
- A panel of well-established judges in this category will review all submissions in accordance with originality and creativity, story line, theme and audience appeal.
- The review process may take up to 1 week.
- Successful participants will be rewarded with sponsorship funds valued at **P100 000** each
- The initiative is open to Batswana citizens only.
- Only successful candidates will be contacted.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

- FNBB will sponsor production of a COVID-19 memoirs photobook. The sponsorship is open to producers who will facilitate purchase of photographic content from local photographers to be featured in this production. The sponsorship is valued at **P75,000** including production and payment of content used.
- Producers can submit their proposals and profiles to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw) no later than **29 May 2020**.
  - Size of the photobook should be large landscape (33 cm x28 cm).
  - A selected FNBB Committee will review submissions and evaluate in accordance with readiness to action the proposal, experience, creativity and quality.
  - The review process may take up to 1 week.
  - The initiative is open to Batswana citizens only.
  - The content remains the intellectual property of the artist post the competition.
  - Only successful candidates will be contacted.

graphers to facilitate and host online dance tutorials

mit their proposals and profiles to [csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw) no later

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[na.co.bw;](mailto:csi@fnbbotswana.co.bw)

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*In Partnership with the Community*





# Technology Financing for Start-up SMMEs in Africa

By Emmanuel Allotey

Availability of finance remains one of the main obstacles to the development of Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMMEs) in Africa. Despite the progress and initiatives by financial institutions in supporting grassroot SMMEs through different initiatives, many SMMEs are unable to

meet the requirements to access formal credit conditions due to high interest, high collateral requirements and complex technical and bureaucratic requirements. Financial institutions have the opportunity to introduce an innovative method of supporting SMMEs without the stringent conditions involved with traditional financing. Technology finance

in principle, is the funding of the technological needs of SMMEs. SMMEs lack the resources to incorporate technology into the running of their businesses. SMMEs at start-up require the most basic technological support examples being Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS), Internet, Computers, accounting and payment software to efficiently run their business. Financial institutions should

consider funding the technology setup required by SMMEs. This technology includes EPOS, website development, Application development amongst others. The funds for the technology can be paid directly to the supplier eliminating the risk of misuse of funding. A partnership with technology suppliers will ensure owners and employees of SMMEs are expertly trained to operate

the technology. Technology financing directly eliminates the inconvenience and long process involved with the movement of money in SMME's. Technology financing will play a role in driving e-commerce for start-up SMMEs. The use of e-commerce is the fastest way for a business to grow and increase its market penetration and target market. Digitisation has had a profound impact on how SMMEs do business. Mobile technology, in particular, is transforming the way that SMMEs source, produce, market and sell their products. The transition from a start-up SMME to a stable high growth business is possible through the adoption of technology. Technology financing can play a dual role as a Financial Inclusion strategy to drive the adoption of financial technology in SMME's. Financial Institutions have a mandate to promote financial inclusion by providing the means for businesses and individual customers to use access financial products and service. The adoption of digital technology creates an ecosystem where customers of SMMEs will switch to digital channels to pay for products and services being rendered by SMMEs. Financing options for start-up SMMEs, cannot be defined in isolation. Financial institutions need constant engagement with stakeholders to ensure they provide innovative solutions that meet the needs of SMME's and foster their growth and development.

## Emerging Channels for Financial Interaction in Africa



Customer channels for interacting with Financial Institutions have evolved in the past several years. Customers now, more than ever have a myriad of options to interact with Financial Institutions. A multi-channel approach consisting of traditional face to face interaction, over the

phone, online or using a mobile application are now accepted methods of engaging with Financial Institutions in Africa. Innovation and technology adoption have accelerated customer expectations from Financial Institutions. Financial Institutions are expected deliver a digital experience that is

more customer driven. What's becoming more evident is the development of innovative new channels for engaging with customers. Financial Institutions have invested heavily in technology and other partnerships to create fluid, streamlined, integrated, seamless and personalized

customer touch points that enhance customer interaction. The Internet, Mobile financial services and Applications (Apps) have become a popular means for conducting financial transactions and interacting with Financial Institutions. These channels are now being augmented with the introduction of other channels such as Social media, Artificial Intelligence, Video, Cloud amongst others. These emerging channels offer a unique environment for financial interactions. Although customers have embraced digital technologies at different degrees, more and more emerging channels are being introduced by Financial Institutions to enhance customer experience such as: Social media: allows users access to a variety of financial services from within any social media or messaging platform. Some financial Institutions enable person-to-person lending schemes, through social media applications such as Facebook and WhatsApp. Other interactions include empowering individual investors to build and share investment strategies and portfolios with other investors. Video: Video communications

whether through website, immersive / high-definition video conferencing applications, YouTube, or mobile-based video is now possible. You can interact through video sessions with your financial adviser from any location. Artificial Intelligence (AI): whether through a Chat bot or a virtual assistant, artificial intelligence allows users to perform various tasks using natural language, such as retrieve information and create transactions in the most natural way possible with speech or through text. Financial interactions through AI is powered by natural language processing (NLP), machine learning, artificial intelligence and application programme interface (API) capabilities. Financial interaction is evolving in Africa. Whether it be Social media, Artificial Intelligence or Video, the landscape for customer experience is being driven by advancement in technology and innovation. This changing landscape of financial interaction does not necessarily mean that the traditional and legacy channels of engagement with Financial Institutions will go away.





IDM Botswana Campus Director, Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe

# INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT'S READINESS TO RESUME BUSINESS

Following the outbreak of Covid19 and subsequent shutdown of Education Service Providers (ETPs), institutions are preparing to resume classes while at the same time adhering to the set guidelines by the Ministry of Health and Wellness to curb the spread of the virus. During the national lock down, the Institute of Development Management (IDM) has been working round the clock to prepare for business continuity and ensure learners complete their studies. IDM Botswana Campus Director, **Dr Onalenna Seitio-Kgokgwe**, shares her plan on the Institute's readiness to operate following the pandemic.

## EMPLOYEES GRADUAL RETURN TO WORK

According to the guidelines from the Covid19 Response Team, organizations are expected to make a gradual return to work, with initial 25% of staff returning, followed by 50% and 100%. In preparation for the gradual opening, IDM began cleaning and fumigation of offices, classrooms and hostels in Gaborone and Francistown this week. Staff will start returning to work during the week of 18th May 2020.

## STUDENTS' RETURN TO CAMPUS

In view of the current health requirements, it will not be possible to bring all the students back to campus at the same time. We have therefore prioritized the following groups to start classes on **June 8th, 2020**:

1. All completing classes
2. All year 1 classes
3. All CIPS classes

## CONTINUATION OF TEACHING LEARNING

IDM will facilitate and enhance infusion of information technologies in teaching/learning processes in order to improve quality and efficiency of program delivery. Prior to Covid19, platforms such as Moodle, Skype for Business and others were tested and successfully used by some of the classes. At the time, IDM was however very conservative because there was an opportunity and luxury to deliver programs face to face. Covid19 has thrown us into a completely different situation where we need now to enhance the use of technology for business continuity in the different scenarios that the disease presents i.e. during periods of lockdowns or in campus adhering to social distancing requirement. To that effect the Institution has enhanced IT educational technology platform and made significant investment in IT infrastructure including bandwidth. This should give us a competitive advantage as our students will be able to learn wherever they are, and our teaching staff will also be able to engage with the students as needed.

We have done a survey to understand the technology needs of our students which clearly

shows that while some students have access to internet connectivity and are ready and willing to start learning on the e-learning platforms, others on the other hand have connectivity issues and/or lack of readiness to study through that mode. The survey was further supported by a desk study to understand the physical locality of learners during the lockdown and internet connectivity in their different areas. The two surveys will help us to carry out more engagements with relevant stakeholders to assist in helping delivery of online teaching. We have made a decision to start enhancing the use of Moodle and other platforms in our program delivery firstly to encourage our students to keep studying and be in a position to complete their studies in a more cost effective way not only for themselves but for the country during these difficult economic times, and secondly to prepare them for worst case scenarios brought by Covid19 uncertainties.

To that effect we will resume all our classes online on **Monday 18th May 2020**. A revised time table will be facilitated by the Academic Services. The teaching staff will monitor class attendance and student engagement with the learning process. Plans will be made to support all students who were not able to access the learning platform to ensure that **NO STUDENT** is disadvantaged. These students will be given priority once the physical sessions are arranged.

Part time students on the other hand, who are mostly frontline workers such as health workers, police and members of the defence force already have access to the learning material on Moodle. Special classes will be arranged when the situation returns to normal to enable them to complete their studies.

To further support the online teaching process, we have established IT help desks for different academic departments to support students who need assistance during online delivery. The Institution has also established an Instructional Design committee to support teaching staff in transitions to e-Learning.

It is important to ensure that as teaching resumes, the needs of all students are taken on board, through the Student Welfare Office, students with special needs have also been contacted to establish their needs and state of readiness during this special period.

## QUALITY OF PROGRAM DELIVERY

In response to the Botswana Qualification Authority (BQA) call for ensuring that quality of programs

is maintained during this difficult time, we have developed a strategy which will guide the process of teaching and learning to ensure that learners complete their studies in line with BQA guidelines.

We are aware that it is no longer business as usual, while we strive to support all students to complete their studies, we are cognizant of the fact that some students may face adaptation challenges due to many reasons. We have put measures in place to support all our learners to complete their studies. We have made preparations to offer multiple exams/or supplementary exams to assist students who may face challenges in their studies in one way or another.

Our strategy, which corresponds with the existing requirements of BQA Registration and Accreditation includes risk management plans to proactively identify possibilities of business disruptions and their mitigating factors.

Additionally, we have developed a robust Crisis Communication plan to facilitate sharing of information about and during the crisis and adoption of crisis intervention strategies. Some of the specific objectives include providing support to students and staff to transition to new ways of operations such as e-Learning mode as a critical alternative to business continuity during the crisis; guide effective management of communication with students and key stakeholders; ascertain consistency in messaging, and clarity of information; minimize the impact of the crisis on students and staff and also allay fears and anxiety among students and other stakeholders.

## NEW ENROLMENTS

We are receiving new enrolments for 2020/2021. We are however looking to be guided by the Department of Tertiary Education Financing who is equally affected by this pandemic. Currently, applications are received online through our website, which has become instrumental in facilitating business continuity during this difficult time.

Last but not least, IDM looks up to parents as a critical stakeholder to provide support to students during this pandemic. We believe that their contribution in providing a conducive learning environment and encouraging learners to make their academic studies their priority is key.

 (+267) 75996614





# New Animated Film Marks International Year Of Plant Health 2020

Diseases that devastate African communities are the focus of a brand new short animated film launched this week by The CONNECTED Virus Network, based at The Universities of Bristol and Newcastle in the United Kingdom.

The network's focus is bringing

together researchers to find ways of tackling crop diseases, caused by plant viruses, which devastate food crops in sub-Saharan Africa.

Farmers in sub-Saharan African countries face failing harvests as a result of vector-borne plant disease and are

often unable to feed their local communities as a result.

Diseases can lead to increased poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity, blocking a countries' economic and social development, sometimes leading to migration as communities look for better lives elsewhere.

To mark The International Year of Plant Health 2020, as designated by The United Nations General Assembly, the new two-minute film focuses on: How human activity spreads plant disease? the importance of diagnostic training to help people in the field address the challenges, and the role of The CONNECTED Virus Network in providing this training.

Julia Vaccina Makar and Kye Ottley, students from UWE Animation at The University of The West Of England, Bristol, UK, were commissioned by the CONNECTED Virus Network to make the short cartoon. They worked from a series of images and other information supplied by a number of researchers working in African countries.

CONNECTED Network Director, Prof. Gary Foster

(University of Bristol, UK) explains: "With one specific virus currently at the forefront of most people's minds, it's important we remain aware of the devastating impact viruses of a different type have on food crops relied upon by millions of people in Sub-Saharan African countries.

"Few members of the public, or indeed governments, fully realise just how seriously plant diseases affect these communities.

"We hope this short animated film contributes towards a better understanding.

"We are grateful to students Julia and Kye, to Pereko Makgothi who provided the voiceover, and to the UWE Animation tutor team for this exciting collaboration."

(Bizcom.)



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# COVID-19 failures show need to prep for climate threats

Security experts have warned that from collapsing supply chains to power grabs by populist leaders, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed how a crisis can swiftly ramp up wider security risks – a clear warning as climate change looms large.

These threats can have massive implications beyond what we’ve ever planned for,” said Kate Guy, a senior research fellow at the Center for Climate and Security, a U.S.-based think-tank.

As leaders scramble to learn lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, they also need to think ahead to climate risks, which are “the next big thing – the longer-term, more intense form of this (coronavirus) crisis”, she told an online event.

Countries around the world have for years analysed how security threats, from terrorism to nuclear weapons use, could play out globally. But relatively little work has yet been done on climate change in this context, she said.

A hotter planet could bring shocks to global food systems, dry up vital water supplies or give populist leaders an excuse to give themselves broad emergency powers, as seen in the Philippines and eastern Europe with COVID-19, Guy said.

Recent research she did with military officials on climate scenarios over different time horizons found “near-term impacts are much more severe than we thought they would be” – something already seen in worsening wildfires, storms and other disasters.

In the long-term, “no region of the world is unaffected and those impacts are increasingly catastrophic, meaning there’s no clear way back from them”, she added.

That could result in more failed states, stepped-up migration, a rise in border confrontations and international organisations unable to contain crises, she said.

Adriana Abdenur, a climate and security expert at the Igarape Institute, a Rio de Janeiro think-tank, said the loss of Amazon forest and Andean glaciers as the planet warms could lead to food insecurity across the central region of South America.

“The Amazon River – all rivers of the basin – originate in the glaciers of the Andes. This melting has very, very grave consequences for an entire down-river region that includes many, many millions of people,” she told the event hosted by London-based think-tank Chatham House.

While climate change can drive burgeoning security threats, the reverse is also true, she said, pointing to a surge in organised crime in the Amazon that has brought more illegal mining,

deforestation and indigenous land invasions.

Behind that is a decline in policing – driven by right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro’s push to develop the Amazon region – and growing demand from nations like China for Brazilian soybeans and timber, she said.

Neil Morisetti, a former Royal Navy commander and British climate envoy, said system breakdowns linked to the coronavirus pandemic made clear “you need a much more holistic approach” to security challenges.

For many countries, that might mean growing more food at home instead of relying on international supply chains, or getting military and economic officials to monitor climate risks.

In the United States, framing climate change as a security issue has helped draw interest from conservative lawmakers, with even President Donald Trump’s administration sanctioning research on the issue, Guy noted.

When security, economic and health officials talk about climate threats, “people take

these voices seriously”, she said.


The coronavirus pandemic has raised awareness of the fragility of national and global systems,

and could bootstrap efforts to prepare better for future risks, she added.

“We can see (climate change) impacts coming much more clearly than we could in the past,” she said, urging efforts now to “think of resilience in our institutions to future shocks.”

(Reuters)





## AN OPEN INVITATION TO ALL BHC TENANTS WHO ARE IN FINANCIAL DISTRESS AND UNABLE TO MEET THEIR RENTAL OBLIGATION DURING THE EXTREME SOCIAL DISTANCING PERIOD

All Botswana Housing Corporation (BHC) valued customers who are experiencing some distress during the Extreme Social Distancing period and are unable to meet their monthly rental obligations are encouraged to contact the Corporation as a matter of urgency.


The Corporation aims to engage in flexible mutual arrangements particularly with tenants in distress. This engagement will be done at an individual level.

The Corporation is aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented Botswana with unprecedented economic challenges. Some Botswana, including BHC tenants, have unfortunately been left without income to meet their obligations. The Corporation remains committed to assisting all its customers through these trying times.


Please contact the officers below for assistance from Tuesday, **May 12th, 2020;**

**Regional Director, South Region (Gaborone)**  
**Mr. Kesebonye Khimbele**  
**Email: kkhimbele@bhc.bw**  
**Call: 72318675**


**Regional Director North Region (Francistown)**  
**Ms Bridget Mtonga**  
**Email: bmtonga@bhc.bw**  
**Cell: 72267399**




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## AFRICAN SPORTS BRIEFS

### Financial relief for Botswana league players

Botswana has announced plans to cushion players from the country's top two divisions from the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, saying they will offer a subsidized salary stipend to players for the next three months.

Each of the 16 clubs in the Elite League will have a roster of 25 players who will be entitled to a stipend of P2,500 (205 USD) while the second tier players will receive P1,500 (123 USD) for the months of April to June.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), Tumiso Rakgare.

Teams will be required to submit a list of 25 players each before the subsidy is disbursed directly to players' bank accounts. At the same time, referees will be assisted through the FIFA relief fund as agreed with Botswana Football Association (BFA).

The players' subsidy is part of the P70 million (5.8mn USD) set aside by the ministry to mitigate the impact of the pandemic.

The Botswana Football Association (BFA) has lauded the government for the move, with President Maclean Leshwiti saying it is a huge boost to the P40,000 (3,320 USD) that had already been availed by the FA.

### CAF teams up with Speak Up Africa to protect one billion Africans against COVID-19

The Confederation Africaine de Football (CAF) strengthens its commitment to helping African communities protect themselves and those around them from the emerging threat of COVID-19, by partnering with Speak Up Africa through the Stay Safe Africa campaign.

In Africa, there are currently over 84,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 2,771 deaths. Several risk factors mean the virus could spread quickly across the continent. High population densities, communal living as well as the constrained access to water and washing facilities all increase the likelihood of coronavirus infections and fatalities.

(Cafonline.)

# 'Best Of' Sport Lists Are Filling The Live Sport Vacuum, But Women Take The Sidelines Once Again

The unprecedented halt of sporting competitions globally has been a painful experience for sport fans during the coronavirus shutdown. After all, in recent years, about every second Australian has regularly indulged in sport media content.

Some relief for those needing their sports fix could be coming soon, with the German Bundesliga resuming play this weekend in empty stadiums, and the NRL and AFL planning their returns.

But the shutdown is proving to be more painful for women's sports, which haven't received nearly as much attention or media coverage since the pandemic began.

In the absence of live sport, and in an effort to maintain engagement, media outlets have had to be proactive in producing content to replicate the emotion, connection and sense of community that live sport delivers.

The answer for many has been to replay vintage matches, tournaments and games, as well as bringing forward the release of sport documentaries like *The Last Dance*, about Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls.

### Best-of sporting moments (minus women)

Traditionally, curated lists of "best matches" or "top 10 sporting moments" make for attractive, fun and useful content. But while these lists are filling the void caused by the pandemic, there is a

downside: women's sports are being sidelined.

On the first weekend after social distancing measures were enacted in March, a prominent article in the *Sunday Age* featured eight sport journalists (notably all men) providing more than 30 recommendations of their most memorable sporting movies, books and matches to revisit.

Only one recommendation was for women's sport content – the baseball film *A League of Their Own*.

The double-page article also pointed readers to what they claimed was "excellent sports writing, films and documentaries to ... satisfy any sporting appetite", featuring 68 names, of which only two were women.

### Women's sport generally receives little coverage

This recent focus on male-dominated content is all the more surprising considering how quickly women's sports have grown recently. More women than men now participate in sport and physical activity in Australia.

More than half of all Australians also now watch broadcasts of or attend live women's sporting events, and almost every second Australian says they would watch more women's sport if it was available.

Yet, even before the pandemic, mainstream media coverage of women's sport was far from being a level playing field.

Globally, UNESCO found

in 2018 that only 4% of sport media content was dedicated to women's sport. In Australia, we've gone backwards: just 7% of sport programming featured women in 2015, down from 11% a decade earlier.

In collaboration with the new women in sport collective, Siren Sport, we have been collecting our own data on the online coverage of women's sport in mainstream Australian media outlets.

Prior to the shutdown, the numbers were already low. Analysing coverage on Sundays, Siren Sport found the peak came on International Women's Day (March 8) when the women's T20 World Cup final was played between Australia and India in front of a record-breaking crowd at the MCG. Nearly a third (31.5%) of media coverage that day was devoted to women's sports.

The following Sunday, women's sport coverage dropped back down to 11.6%.

In the past four weeks, this percentage has dropped even further, with just 7.7% of the online content across 20 Australian publications devoted to women's sport.

Last year, Victoria University's Fiona McLachlan analysed the increasing interest, or what she called "booms", in women's sport in the Australian media over a century.

She observed that while we occasionally have "celebratory" moments related to women's progress in sport, history tells

us these narratives routinely fade, or "bust".

Yes, the media does need to focus on questions around restarting the men's NRL and

“

*The following Sunday, women's sport coverage dropped back down to 11.6%. In the past four weeks, this percentage has dropped even further, with just 7.7% of the online content across 20 Australian publications devoted to women's sport.*

AFL seasons, but why aren't the same conversations being had about Suncorp Super Netball (which is also looking to restart in June) and the NRLW (uncertain to return at all)?

It's vital to recognise the unique challenges facing women's sport after the pandemic, as many professional players were struggling to make a living even before competition came to a halt.

(TheConversation.)





# Vipers declared Uganda champions as season canceled due to COVID-19

The Federation of Ugandan Football Associations (FUFA) has followed neighbours Kenya’s example of enforcing a Force Majeure clause in its competition rules to end the season due to the current COVID-19 situation. With lockdown extended

to June 9 by the Government, completing the season became complicated. The Ugandan Premier League had already played over 80 per cent of games and had thus passed the 75 per cent threshold in Article 18 of FUFA’s competition

rules. Thus, Vipers SC who led the standings have been declared champions for the fourth time in their history. “Where all the clubs in the league have completed the first round fixtures but less than 75 per cent league games have been

played, the table standings at the end of the first round shall be considered as the final table standing of the league,” Article 18 of FUFA’s competition rules state. The Kampala based club led the standings with 54 points, four

ahead of second placed Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) after 25 rounds of matches. Vipers will represent Uganda in next season’s Total CAF Champions League. While the Cup matches were yet to be completed with the round of 16 games lined up next, FUFA has made the decision to forward KCCA’s name to CAF as representatives in next year’s Total CAF Confederation Cup while they monitor the situation to know if they can complete the remaining games. Meanwhile, Maroons, Proline and Tooro United have been relegated to the second tier FUFA Big League.

Also, from the second tier, UPDF Football Club and MYDA Football Club have earned promotion while the play-offs pitting Kitara FC and Kataka FC as well as Kiboga Young FC and Ndejje University FC to determine the 3rd team that earns promotion will be played before the kick-off of the season 2020/2021. Meanwhile, the Women’s Super League has been cancelled as they had only played one round of matches while in the second tier Elite League, Isra Soccer Academy Women Football Club (Victoria) and Makerere University Women Football Club (Elizabeth) will gain promotion to the top tier as the league had played half its matches. The Women’s FUFA Cup has also been cancelled.

(Cafonline.)



# Some Players In Latam And Africa Relying On Food Packages

Some professional soccer players in Latin America and Africa are relying on food packages during the novel coronavirus stoppage while elsewhere others are being pressured into returning to play, sometimes without testing, FIFPRO said on Wednesday.

As football begins to reawaken following the sport’s suspension, the global players’ union, which has affiliates in 65 countries, said the consequences for some of its members away from the mainstream leagues had been dire.

“There is an under-representation of the hardship that many players in less pronounced parts of the football ecosystem are facing,” FIFPRO general secretary Jonas Baer-Hoffmann told reporters. He said that seven member

unions, in Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Honduras, Panama, Botswana and Egypt, were delivering food packages to players “because they cannot provide for their own basic needs and are stranded in terms of income.”

In countries where players had started training again ahead of a resumption of the league, Baer-Hoffmann added that conditions were often far from ideal. “Some leagues are not providing testing material for the players which increases the risk of infection tremendously,” he said, adding that, in some cases, unions were stepping in to provide coronavirus tests. There were also cases of players being threatened with disciplinary action for expressing concern about the health of their families, or being asked to sign a waiver regarding the consequences of a possible infection. “This is unacceptable,” he said. While players in countries such as England had spoken out, that was not possible for others. “The vast majority of players are under the same economic pressure as most people in society and don’t have the luxury of insisting on risk mitigation,” he said. “They need to put food on the table and many are returning to play with doubts and fears, because they have no other choice.”

(Reuters.)





## Botswana's Volleyball Trio Under Good Care In Rwanda

Three of Botswana Volleyball National team members who are exports to Rwanda have said they are receiving good care from their employers during this period of corona virus pandemic. The pandemic has led to negative impact in the sport fraternity that saw all activities halted to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Gaoleseletse Gasekgonwe, Tshiamo Chakalisa and Thapelo Kamberuka relocated to Rwanda early this year after securing deals with Rwandan top clubs in the professional setup, University of Tourism and Business (UTB) volleyball club and Kigali Volleyball Club respectively.

In an interview with Echo Sport, Gasekgonwe said they have been coping well with the lockdown even though they have

not resumed training yet, but they have been provided with all necessities by their clubs.

"We have been provided with everything we need, and we are happy with the reception despite being out of our comfort zone. They have been buying food and paying for our rentals just like they always did. The only problem is that we were told that we might not get our full allowances due to the impact of the pandemic since our team depends on the tuition fees from students, but we were told that priority will be given to us if everything gets to normal," she said.

She further stated that she has also been given a financial boost by her former club, Magstimela in the wake of the impacts that the pandemic has had on players.

"My former club also lent their helping hand by giving us a financial boost in order to survive in this period and I appreciate their support which shows that we are still important people to them even though we are no longer playing for them. All I can say is that we are in the good hands and we are looking forward to the start of sports activities this side. For now we are focusing on our studies which we believe is a good thing to us," Gaekgonwe added.

The trio was scouted in December when the senior national team was in Rwanda for an intensive training camp prior to the Olympics Africa qualifiers held in Cameroon early this year. Gaekgonwe and Chakalisa were signed on the spot by UTB while Kamberuka signed in February

for Kigali giants from Kutlwano Volleyball club.

They are amongst other players who are plying their trades in professional setups across the world that includes Nigel Amos, Naomi Ruele, Thuto Ramafifi, Mogakolodi Ngele and Thatayaone Ditlhokwe amongst

others.

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*The only problem is that we were told that we might not get our full allowances due to the impact of the pandemic since our team depends on the tuition fees from students, but we were told that priority will be given to us if everything gets to normal," she said.*