



Republic of Botswana



## Press Release

30 July 2020

# LOCKDOWN OF GREATER GABORONE ZONE

Botswana has recorded 30 new positive cases of COVID-19, with most of the cases emanating from schools in the Greater Gaborone Zone. This unprecedented spike of new cases undoubtedly means that there is local transmission of the coronavirus in Botswana, particularly in the Greater Gaborone Zone.

The contact tracing exercise that has been ongoing for the past few days has revealed that the nature of the spread is becoming more and more complex, rendering our efforts of containment more challenging.

In May 2020, the COVID-19 Presidential Taskforce cautioned that transitioning out of lockdown would necessitate a gradual approach to enable us to respond expeditiously should an outbreak occur. The gradual unlocking process aided our objective to balance the fight against COVID-19 with restarting the economy in the utmost disciplined fashion and vigilance.

During the course of this week, the disease has taken an unexpected turn which now required that we place the Greater Gaborone Zone under lockdown for a minimum period of two weeks to enable our containment efforts to take hold. The lockdown of Greater Gaborone is effective from Midnight tonight, (30 July 2020).

Thus, only Essential Services will operate at 25% capacity; there will be no movement within the Greater Gaborone Zone without a movement permit; the online permit for Essential Services will be activated, and movement to and from Greater Gaborone will be void with immediate effect.

For greater efficiency, those holding interzonal movement permits to Greater Gaborone will be allowed return, while those who are in the Greater Gaborone Zone will not be allowed to leave without an essential services permit.

In the coming days, more details will be provided as the situation evolves. It will take greater vigilance and discipline to ensure that our containment efforts bear fruit and we normalise the situation. The public is urged to observe all COVID-19 protocols to prevent more new cases.

Thank you.

**Dr. Kereng Masupu**  
Coordinator - Presidential  
Covid-19 Task Force



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