



PRESIDENT

Frank Matose

fmatose@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Peter Sharples

petershrpls@gmail.com

TREASURER

Dez Jansen

dez@vuyainvest.co.za

EDITOR

Tanya Stone



Address

*PO Box 428
Howard Place
Pinelands
7405*

Meeting Venue
*Helen Keller Society
Pinelands*

Meeting Time
17h45 for 18h15

Face book page
*Pinelands Rotary, Cape
Town Facebook*

Chartered 6th October 1992



**FRIDAY
26th JUNE
17th Edition**

Editor:

*Tanya Stone
Rotary Club of Pinelands*



Dear fellow Rotarians, family and friends

I hope everyone is well and healthy!

The Rotary District 9350 Virtual Conference was held on Saturday 20th June. What a great success it was. Over 250 people from all over attended the event. Thanks to DG David Holtshauzen sterling job as District Governor for 2019/2020 Rotary year.

Congratulations to in-coming District Governor Carl-Heinz Duisberg. We wish you all the best for the new Rotary Year!

Some of the participants on zoom at the conference



A bit of a bumper issue this one, lots of new, information and updates to take in.

A severe weather warning has been issued for the Western Cape for the weekend.
An intense cold front is expected with gale-force winds, rain and rough seas.
The other provinces in SA have pretty good weather, so enjoy!

Suggestion: snuggle up, grab the popcorn and enjoy reading!!



Keep safe, take care and have a lovely weekend.

Tanya



**Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak situation
FRIDAY 26th JUNE 2020**

Statistics from Worldometer and WHO on COVID-19

PLEASE NOTE: Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

9,823,542
Confirmed cases
Updated: 26th June

494,279
Confirmed deaths
Updated: 26th June

5,303,946
Recovered
Updated: 26th June

UPDATE



SOUTH AFRICA Friday 26th June 2020

South Africa now has **118,375** confirmed cases.
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA
on COVID-19

118,375
Positive Cases Identified
Updated: 26th June

2,292
Deaths
Updated: 26th June

59,974
Recovered
Updated: 26th June

UPDATE AFRICA



Friday 26th June 2020
Africa now has **348,172** confirmed cases.

348,172
Positive Cases Identified
Updated: 26th June

9,070
Deaths
Updated: 26th June

127,799
Recovered
Updated: 26th June

NEWS

SOUTH AFRICA



Important things happening in South Africa today

Staff Writer
BusinessTech



Here's what is happening in and affecting South Africa today:

Coronavirus: Total global infections since the start of the year have hit 9.4 million, with the death toll now over 482,000. In South Africa, cases continue to climb, with the country registering 6,579 new cases taking the total to 118,375. Deaths are also increasing, with the toll now at 2,292. Recoveries are at 59,974, leaving a balance of 56,109 active cases.



Unrealistic: The South African government target to stabilise its ballooning debt by 2023 will be very difficult to achieve and unlikely, ratings agency Moody's says. Given South Africa's weak track record of fiscal consolidation in recent years and the weak medium-term economic outlook, debt stabilisation by 2023 will be very difficult to achieve. The economy was in recession before the Covid-19 outbreak ravaged it, and the lockdown that followed late in March has put further strain on businesses and consumers, it said.

[READ MORE](#)



No coup: Deputy president David Mabuza has made a rare appearance to answer questions in parliament – and has assured MPs that the National Coronavirus Command Council has not taken over or usurped powers from the three arms of government, including parliament. Mabuza said that the council is a sub-structure of cabinet, and is chaired by the president. The legality of the council's formation is in question, with a court process in the works to test this. Critics claim the council is operating without oversight from parliament.

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Reality: The harsh reality of the Covid-19 crisis is hitting home in the Western Cape. Nurses at hospitals in the province have given their account of what it's like dealing with patients who have the virus – speaking about high stress environments with packed wards, fewer staff to help them, and the tragic situation of having patients suffering alone without any physical contact with family members allowed. The province is the epicentre of the outbreak in South Africa, and experts say serves as a precursor to what will happen in the rest of South Africa.

[READ MORE](#)



Delayed: After getting court approval to move forward with the vote on SAA's future as a new, restructured airline, the group's creditors and unions decided to take some time to review the proposed business rescue plan, thus delaying the process. The meeting and vote has been delayed to July. The groups want the plan to be redone in some places, and for negotiations with workers to continue. The current plan would require R10 billion from government to execute – and for thousands of workers to be retrenched.

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Markets: The rand clawed back additional ground towards the end of the week, as investors found comfort in the fact that economies remain on the path of reopening, even as numbers of Covid-19 infections continue to rise. With minimal data releases today, we are expecting to see the rand test its continued move stronger, as markets search for a new catalyst. On Friday the rand is at R17.15 to the dollar, R19.23 to the euro and R21.29 to the pound. Commentary by Peregrine Treasury Solutions.

[CURRENCY CONVERTER](#)



Insurance claims: As restaurants and hotels wait on government to publish the rules and regulations that will allow them to start earning a living once again, they have run into further problems – this time around business interruption insurance claims. One insurer, Santam, has clarified a particular point of contention: their insurance only covers business lost as a result of Covid-19 (ie, a staff member got infected and the business was shut down), and not the nationwide lockdown (businesses closing down due to government regulations).

[READ MORE](#)



Get on with it: Despite announcements that restaurants, hotels and other sectors of the economy can re-open under ‘advanced lockdown level 3’ – these industries are still waiting to be told when, and how they can do it. So far, only the personal care industry has had a directive published. Hotels have said they’ve been left hanging on the rules that govern how they can re-open – although they have plans in place – while restaurant bodies have again implored government to release the directives so they can get back to work.

[READ MORE](#)

South Africa’s new lockdown rules – here are the things you still can’t do



Staff Writer
BusinessTech

Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma has published a new [gazette](#) which updates South Africa’s level 3 lockdown rules. While a number of tacit restrictions remain in place – including the closure of the country’s borders and the purchasing of tobacco products – the directive also outlines a number of specific restrictions.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Western Cape concerned about ‘high rejection rates’ for isolation facilities

By Sandisiwe Shoba

Daily Maverick

As Covid-19 enters its peak in the Western Cape, the provincial government is concerned that people who cannot quarantine or isolate at home are refusing to go to government facilities.

The Western Cape is experiencing “high rejection rates” for assisted quarantine and isolation at its facilities.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Expect tax hikes in South Africa to feed government’s addiction

Staff Writer

BusinessTech



South Africa’s government has an addiction, which is being funded by the country’s taxpayers, says Maarten Ackerman, chief economist and advisory partner at financial services company, Citadel.

He noted that during South Africa’s 90 days of lockdown, the minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has banned the sale of cigarettes, in part hoping that some addicted to the habit will quit smoking. “However, the government has an addiction of its own: overspending. And it needs to curb the habit – and fast – if we are ever to see a balanced budget,” the economist said.

[READ MORE](#)

Government working on new cannabis laws for South Africa

Staff Writer

BusinessTech



The Department of Social Development says that it is in the process of developing new legislation around the possession and use of cannabis in South Africa.

In a ‘national drug master [plan](#)’ published on Thursday (25 June), the department said that the new rules would be in line with the September 2018 Constitutional Court ruling on private use. At the time, the relevant departments were given 24 months to respond and make changes in line with ruling, meaning the updated legislation should be tabled within the coming months.

“A steering committee has been established to deal with the amendments cited in the Constitutional Court judgement, with a specific program and plan with time frames to abide by the judgement,” the department said.

[READ MORE](#)

BREAKING NEWS

High court rules ban on sale of tobacco products will remain

By Zelda Venter

IOL
PRETORIA NEWS



The Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, ruled that the Fair Trade Tobacco Associations' argument that cigarettes ought to have been considered "essential" because they are addictive, has no merit.

The buying and selling of tobacco products remain forbidden. This after the Gauteng High Court, Pretoria, on Friday afternoon turned down the application by the Fair Trade Tobacco Associations (Fita) to lift the government's ban on the sale of tobacco products.

The full bench, headed by Judge President Dunstan Mlambo, said: "By their very nature, natural disasters may often result in unforeseen consequences requiring a government to implement measures not necessarily foreseen at the time legislation was drafted to manage and contain a state of natural disaster. The Covid-19 pandemic unfortunately bears testimony of this."

The court further said due to the newness of the disease, governments are struggling to understand the effects of Covid-19. It is in the context of the unpredictable nature of the disease that the government must take measures that are "necessary" to protect the public and to deal with the destructive effects of the disease, the court said.

"We are persuaded by the minister's (Minister of Traditional Affairs and Cooperative Governance Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma) submission that Fita's argument is misconceived as it ignores the context under which the regulations were promulgated," the judges said.

They added that simply because a good (product) is addictive, it does not necessarily follow that it is therefore necessary for human survival or required for basic human functionality.

"Fita's argument that cigarettes ought to have been considered 'essential' because they are addictive, has no merit. The fact that a substance is addictive does not render it essential.

"We therefore find no basis on which to interpret the level 5 regulations as permitting the sale of tobacco products," the court said.

Second teacher at Cape Town primary school tests positive for Covid-19

By Chad Anthony Williams
AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY



Cape Town – A second teacher has tested positive for Covid-19 at Hyde Park Primary School in Parkwood, Cape Town, just a few days after the school announced that another of its teachers had contracted the illness.

The school said the relevant authorities had been contacted and its premises were decontaminated on Wednesday. According to a circular sent out by the school, the learners in the affected class were asked to return home and the school has appealed to parents and guardians to observe them over the next few days.

The school said if the learners do experience any symptoms of Covid-19, they will need to consult a doctor. According to the school, the first teacher who contracted the virus had not been at school for the whole of last week. It vehemently denied that the teacher was infected on school premises. Hyde Park Primary said the school was adhering to all safety measures and appealed to parents and guardians to send their children to school with face masks.

It further said that if any learner felt sick or unwell, they were to remain at home until they had fully recovered and visited a doctor. Meanwhile, concerned teachers and parents staged a picket on the corner of Joe Marks Boulevard and Prince George Drive (M5) in Cape Town on Thursday morning in protest against what they see as the premature reopening of schools at the height of the deadly coronavirus outbreak.

In recent days, there have been growing calls for the school academic year to be suspended. Learners in grades R, 1, 2, 3 and 6, 10 and 11 are expected to return to the classroom on Monday and grades 4 and 5 on August 3.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) has issued a set of directions to provide clarity and guidance on a variety of matters affecting the basic education sector in the Covid-19 environment. Minister Angie Motshekga said a school may be permitted to deviate from the phased return to school in respect of specific grades or dates, provided that such school complies with the minimum health, safety and physical distancing measures and requirements on Covid-19, referred to in section 5 of the DBE Standard Operating Procedures and the DBE.

SA's biggest cigarette maker is now accepting orders – and some stores hope for 1 July delivery

By Phillip de Wet
Business Insider SA



British American Tobacco has confirmed it is accepting "holding orders" from customers, so cigarettes can get to stores quickly once the ban on their sale is lifted.

It did not comment on when that may be.

Some stores are betting on the tobacco prohibition being lifted on 1 July, and are preparing for a rush when it does.

It is not actually selling cigarettes, the company said, and it is not yet invoicing on the orders it takes.

"No deliveries will be made until the sale of tobacco products is allowed. The date for delivery will depend on when the ban is lifted," said British American Tobacco Southern Africa (Batsa) external affairs head Johnny Moloto in a statement to Business Insider South Africa.

But the company wants "to be in a position to better serve its customers and consumers once allowed".

South Africa's Covid-19 lockdown, and associated ban on the sale of tobacco, is more than three months old, and the vast majority of smokers are believed to have run out of legally-acquired cigarettes.

Many of those smokers found their way to suppliers of vastly profitable illegal cigarettes, but retailers are betting they will return to their preferred brands when possible.

Some of those placing orders with British American Tobacco said their stocks were utterly depleted by bulk buying shortly before the ban came into effect.

Now they are extremely eager to restock in time for an anticipated rush when the ban is lifted. Some even expressed concern about having to fend off abusive or violent customers if they cannot immediately satisfy demand, or run out.

"I just pray we can keep up," said one retailer, who has arranged for extra cashiers, change, and security on 1 July, which is when he believes sales will become legal again.

Many retailers appear to share that belief, though none could say exactly why that date is propitious.

British American Tobacco did not comment on when it thinks the ban may be lifted.

Western Cape concerned about 'high rejection rates' for isolation facilities

By Sandisiwe Shoba
Daily Maverick

As Covid-19 enters its peak in the Western Cape, the provincial government is concerned that people who cannot quarantine or isolate at home are refusing to go to government facilities.

The Western Cape is experiencing "high rejection rates" for assisted quarantine and isolation at its facilities.

[READ FURTHER](#)

Almost 1 000 people in strict quarantine as Covid-19 'peaks' in the Western Cape

Murray Williams
News24



National coach of national women's soccer team Banyana Banyana, Desiree Ellis, netted a donation from City of Cape Town Executive Mayor Dan Plato today - to help feed the hungry.

Almost 1 000 Western Cape residents are in quarantine, Premier Alan Winde announced on Wednesday.

The province has 41 quarantine and isolation facilities - comprising both public and private facilities - housing 948 people.

Transport to and from these sites has been provided by the Red Dot transport service which the provincial government pioneered. It consists of a 100-strong fleet of specially sterilised minibus taxis.

Winde said some people who might have had contact with someone who was Covid-19 positive - and who needed to be quarantined - have refused to be quarantined.

"The reasons vary and include concerns about leaving family members and children behind, concern that their homes would be broken into and their building materials stripped or stolen, and even the inability to drink alcohol, smoke or have visitors while in the facilities.

"We are working closely with community organisations and religious leaders in areas where we are seeing high rejection rates of quarantine and isolation in order to ensure that some of these community concerns can be addressed."

He added the Western Cape had recorded an additional 65 deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing the number of Covid-19-related deaths to 1 565 in the province.

Winde said the province's Economic Development Partnership had been tasked with helping to co-ordinate food relief, across civil society, in partnership with the City of Cape Town.

The humanitarian campaign to feed the hungry also scored a valuable goal on Wednesday after Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis received donations from Cape Town Mayor Dan Plato. Plato said his office had supplied more than 80 soup kitchens across the metro with equipment and ingredients. And a new recipient was the humanitarian effort by Ellis.

Her foundation has partnered with The Alcardo Andrews Foundation, which feeds between 400 and 600 cooked meals daily, as well as distributing packed meals in Hanover Park which was received from a boutique hotel in the city.

"The donation from the City of Cape Town is a great help because we currently utilise our own resources such as electricity and sometimes our own ingredients. The equipment will help us to expand our outreach to residents and fill more empty stomachs," Ellis said

"We must continue to strengthen our support and compassion for our fellow residents. These donations are intended to assist organisations feeding residents in need and, as a caring city, we are doing all we can to help residents," said Plato

Govt outlines measures to prevent, mitigate spread of Covid-19 when ECDs reopen

By Jeanette Chabalala
News24



Although the reopening date has not been announced, the Department of Social Development released a circular this week regarding the preparation and planning for the centres and partial care facilities.

Several ECD (Early Childhood Development) owners have been calling for the department to allow them to reopen, arguing that the centres serve as places of safety for children.

Trade union Solidarity's Occupational Guild for Social Workers and their School Support Centre (SCC) have also taken the department to court regarding the reopening of private nursery schools, but the case has been postponed to next Tuesday, News24 reported.

According to the department, the circular is meant to assist ECDs or partial care facilities to implement measures to prevent and mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus among children.

The information will also support staff and officials, it said.

It also said that it was going to be a challenge for children attending ECD programmes to understand Covid-19, in particular the risks associated with the virus.

"Their ability to self-regulate and conceptual and practical understanding of measures, such as social/physical distancing, avoidance of surfaces, hygiene practices, and the consequences of not following new expected behaviour.

"The general impact of measures implemented since March 2020 to manage the impact of Covid-19 that created stress, anxiety and isolation that impact on their psychosocial well-being and ability to learn," reads the circular.

Measures

The department has outlined measures to be taken by staff prior to the reopening of ECDs.

It includes:

- All staff need to return to an early childhood development programme and/or partial care facility at least five working days prior to the reopening;
- The staff will receive an in-depth orientation regarding the virus, and measures related to managing it;
- They would establish measures and protocol for daily hygiene and cleaning practices that will be implemented on the premises and in the learning spaces;
- The staff will also receive in-service training on how to receive and support children and parents, and also how to engage with parents regarding healthy and preventative measures;
- The staff would also need to be provided with a thorough orientation, related to the pre-cleaning measures.

"Every parent, who returns a child to an early childhood development programme and/or partial care facility, shall be informed in writing that the return of a child to an early childhood development programme and/or partial care facility is voluntary and the sole decision of that parent or legal guardian."

Highest number of Covid-19 patients in Western Cape hospitals, says Winde

By Staff Reporter
CAPE ARGUS



Cape Town (25 June) - With over 1 700 patients who have tested positive for Covid-19 in hospitals in the Western Cape, this is the highest number of hospitalisations to date, said Premier Alan Winde on Thursday.

The premier explained that hospitalised Covid-19 patients include both public and private facilities, and of this total, more than 300 people are in ICU or high-care facilities in these hospitals. "This is the highest number of Covid-19 hospitalisations to date, and we are anticipating and planning for a further increase in demand in our services. "The additional capacity provided for by the Hospital of Hope at the CTICC has already provided significant support, recording 230 admissions by 24 June. 176 people have been discharged from this field hospital to date," Winde said.

Winde explained that the province's healthcare system planning and provisioning is guided by modelling, which is done in conjunction with the National Covid-19 Epi Model consortium. He said that this is the same model used by the National Government.

As guided by the modelling the province is also preparing against a range of possible scenarios the premier said, "including those which anticipate limited mitigation of the epidemic".

"We believe it would be irresponsible to plan for an optimistic scenario, and we are then not able to provide services to those who need it.

"However, I must stress that modelling is never perfect. It is based on a number of assumptions on how the virus might spread through our communities, and who might get infected."

As a result, Winde explained that the Western Cape government therefore needs to continuously re-assess the model by putting in new data from what is happening 'on the ground'.

"We currently cannot be certain whether we have started approaching our peak or whether it has been pushed out, and we are therefore undertaking an additional calibration of the model using the latest data and trends. We will make this new calibration public as soon as it is completed," he said.

Western Cape gears up for COVID-19 peak

By eNCA



The Western Cape is bracing for a coronavirus death rate of 60 people per day.

This as the province prepares to move into the peak of the pandemic towards early July.

Already over 1,500 people have died in the province -- the highest COVID-19 death rate in the country.

The province is preparing for the peak of the infection ahead of other provinces but it's also struggling to convince people to isolate and quarantine in its facilities.

Many fear the stigma of the diagnosis and don't want to leave the creature comforts of home.

A COVID-19 morgue comprising 12 refrigeration containers that can accommodate 770 bodies is being set up at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town.

Premier Alan Winde says the next few weeks will be critical for a province with around 15,000 active coronavirus cases.

"We are preparing for this, and we continue to prepare for this. Even the response from the Health Department, you would see that, some of our testing and triage facilities are not all in place, there are a couple in the rural areas that we are still putting place." "It's about the health response, but also the citizen response. It's about making sure we continue with our response as citizens to keep flattening the curve in whichever way we go about it."

Doctor Keith Cloete, head of the Western Cape health department, said the pandemic hit Cape Town much earlier than previously assumed.

"We believe that there (was) earlier seeding than what we thought initially in terms of community transmission," said Doctor Keith Cloete, head of the Western Cape health department.

Data released on Wednesday showed the Western Cape region had 46,555 confirmed COVID-19 cases, out of a national total of 80,412. The province also has the most deaths from the highly contagious respiratory disease, 1,243 out of a total 1,674.

Cloete said health authorities now knew "for certain" that local transmission in poorer communities, who have difficulty self-isolating in cramped and unhygienic living conditions, had taken place in Cape Town in the last two weeks of March, towards the tail-end of the summer peak tourist season.

"The testing regimen at the time... (assumed) we would only have imported cases," he said.

At that time South Africa did not test people with symptoms unless they had travelled overseas. By the time it changed the testing protocols in April, the disease had already spread.

"For us, the reason why the cases are more is because we had earlier community transmission," said Cloete.

'Rotational teaching' on the cards as more learners head back to school in July

Staff Writer

BusinessTech



Schools in South Africa will have to adopt new teaching methods to deal with the coming influx of children returning to schools next month, especially where spacing issues limit capacity for social distancing.

In an update on the re-opening of schools presented on Thursday (25 June), basic education minister Angie Motshekga said that she believes that despite criticism, government made the right decision in open schools at level 3 lockdown.

"The decision to open schools was not taken lightly. We fully appreciate the anxiety and tension that comes with it, but we feel we had to operate again.

"We were driven by the guidance and understanding from the health department, but also by international trends relating to the schooling environment," she said. All these bodies had research and data that agreed with the decision, the minister said.

Motshekga said that her mandate was that safety of the children comes first, and the salvaging of the school year be contingent on this.

The minister said a number of measures have been taken to protect children going back to school. These include:

- Providing every child with two cloth masks;
- Ensuring that schools are clean before opening;
- Social distancing measures, keeping children 1.5 meters apart – including physical markings;
- Orientating teachers around Covid-19 protocols, and continued educating children on these;
- Employing a full-time screener to ensure anyone who enters the school is cleared;
- Ongoing monitoring of these factors;
- No school is allowed to open unless all these factors are in place.

Motshekga said that since re-opening schools, her department has seen attendance levels of around 98%, which she said is proof that parents trust the department to handle the situation at schools. A number of provinces have reported new cases of the coronavirus at schools since reopening on June 8, with pupils of Grade 7 and Grade 12 allowed to return to classrooms.

On Thursday, North West Education Department confirmed 30 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the total to 62 cases in the province. These cases comprise of 22 teachers, six learners, a deputy principal and a non-teaching staff.

And earlier this week, the SABC reported that more than 180 learners at the Makaula Senior Secondary School in Mount Frere, Eastern Cape tested positive for Covid-19.

[READ MORE](#)

Key take aways from Mboweni's supplementary budget speech

Budget Report
IOL



South African finance minister Tito Mboweni delivered a supplementary budget speech to the nation on Wednesday.

Take a look at some of the key points Mboweni focused on during his speech.

Finance Minister Tito Mboweni quotes:

- As the wise farmer will tell you, when the tempest is raging you must protect your plants from damage. Our Aloe Ferox, like our people, is protected. Mr President, you are the wise farmer, caring for this Aloe Ferox. The storm is not over.
- Our Herculean task is to close the mouth of the Hippopotamus!
- The gospel according to the Apostle Matthew, chapter 7 verses 13 and 14, springs to mind:
- Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. We are faced, as a nation with a choice between these two gates.
- Gospel tells us: Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.
- To quote the President, in his letter to the nation on Monday: Let us put shoulder to the wheel and turn this adversity into opportunity. Let us reimagine and repurpose our economy and put it firmly on a solid and sustainable path.

Budget salient points:

- This Supplementary Budget sets out a roadmap to stabilise debt, by improving our spending patterns, and creating a foundation for economic revival.

- Spending has to stop. Inflation takes hold and people grow much poorer. This is what happened to Germany in the 1920s, to Argentina and to Zimbabwe in the early 2000s, and to Greece in the past few years. Argentina had its ships attached. Greek civil servants and pensioners had their salaries and pensions slashed. In short it is doom and despair. We have been there before: in its closing days, the Apartheid government had to declare a debt standstill.
- This year, out of every rand that we pay in tax, 21 cents goes to paying the interest on our past debts.
- The South African economy is now expected to contract by 7.2 percent in 2020. This is the largest contraction in nearly 90 years.
- Projected total consolidated budget spending, including debt service costs, will exceed R2 trillion for the first time ever.
- Our early projection is that gross national debt will be close to R4 trillion, or 81.8 percent, of GDP by the end of this fiscal year. This is compared to an estimate of R3.56 trillion, or 65.6 percent, of GDP projected in February.
- Government intends to borrow about \$7bn from international finance institutions to support the pandemic response.
- Government will narrow the deficit and stabilise debt at 87.4 percent of GDP in 2023/24. Cabinet has also adopted a target of a primary surplus by 2023/24.
- We need to find spending adjustments of about R230 billion over the next two years.
- Tax measures of R40bn over the next four years will also be required.
- Government will also be allocating R3bn to recapitalise the Land Bank.
- This year nearly half of all consolidated revenue will go towards the compensation of workers in the public.

Budget Provisions:

- R21.5bn for Covid-19-related health care spending.
- To support vulnerable households an additional allocation of R25.5bn to the Social Development department is proposed, for a total relief package of R41bn. All these measures will come to an end in October.
- The Economic Support Package sets aside R100bn for a multi-year, comprehensive response to our jobs emergency. In this year, an amount of R6.1bn is already allocated, and a further R19.6bn has been set aside mainly for this purpose. - division of revenue: the national share for 2020/21 increases from R758bn to R790bn, the provincial share decreases from R649bn to R645bn and the local government share increases from R133bn to R140bn.

Mandy Wiener

The forgotten children of lockdown

By Mandy Wiener
Specialist Report for
News24

With President Cyril Ramaphosa's announcement last week another sector of industry - restaurants and beauty and care - will be reopened, a forgotten sector now seems more left behind than ever before.

Concerned parents who need to return to work are grappling with the problem of who will look after their small children as ECD (Early Childhood Development) centres remain closed with little clarity on their futures.

Many of those in the workforce are single parents with few alternative options for childcare. Faced with the awful dilemma of having to choose between earning an income to sustain their families and looking after their children, what choice do they really have? They have to return to work to earn money after months of staying at home.

Education Minister Angie Motshekga has issued directives around those nursery schools or ECDs that are affiliated with schools - these are set to open on 6 July as things currently stand. But the bulk of nursery schools and aftercare facilities fall under the Department of Social Development and its minister, Lindiwe Zulu, has been largely absent, providing little leadership and direction throughout the lockdown period. She has refused to commit to a timeline for the reopening.

Zulu also muddled around the regulations for sharing of custody of children during the early days of Level 5, leading to much distress and confusion, and most recently said in an interview she had underestimated the crippling impact of Covid-19. She has appeared utterly unprepared and slow to action.

As a result of this leadership vacuum, I have received many emails, messages and phone calls from ECD owners desperate for answers.

It certainly appears as though this crucial sector, responsible for looking after some of the most vulnerable in our society, is just not being given adequate attention.

According to reports, the department is conducting workshops and set up work teams and talking a lot about what should happen. Reports suggest this process only started towards the end of May, two months after the country first went into lockdown. While there appears to have been much talking, there is little action.

The latest development seems to be a "self-assessment form" sent out to ECD operators which is essentially an online questionnaire and a "circular regarding preparation and planning for reopening" in which the director-general clearly states ECDs may not reopen until regulations are published, but no date has yet been set for this.

As one nursery school owner aptly put it in an email to me, there is finally some light on the topic, but no switch yet.

Last week, Professor Servaas van der Berg and Dr Nic Spaull of Stellenbosch University's Department of Economics completed their report, [Counting the Cost: Covid-19 school closures in South Africa and its impact on children](#).

Frighteningly, it found an estimated one million children under the age of six have been left "home alone" as the South African economy reopens, while crèches and ECD centres remain closed. These children have no other adult caregiver in the house, except for a working parent.

"One of the least appreciated costs of reopening the economy while keeping schools closed for 90% of learners [as is currently the case in South Africa] is that children are at higher risk of being left home alone.

"Our analysis of the Quarterly Labour Force Survey [QLFS] data of 2019 shows that if all employed workers return to work, there would be more than two million children aged 0 to 15 years without an older sibling [15 years+] or an adult caregiver to look after them.

"Of highest concern are the almost one million children [974 000] below the age of six who have no other adult caregiver in the household, except a working parent.

"It is highly plausible that hundreds of thousands of these children would be left home alone in households without an adult caretaker if their employed caregiver was forced to return to work to earn an income and sustain her family. Even though most sectors of the economy have reopened, ECD centres or crèches remain closed," says the report.

Their finding is that keeping children out of school is not in the best interests of the child. "Consequently, all children should return to schools, crèches and ECD centres without any further delay. The profound costs borne by small children and families as a result of the ongoing nationwide lockdown and school closures will be felt for at least the next 10 years," they add in the report.

Nearly three months into the lockdown and many of these crèches and aftercare facilities are already dead and will not even be able to open up again when the government says they can. Parents have stopped paying fees which means caregivers have not been paid. Because the majority of these facilities operate in a quasi-informal manner in poor communities, it also makes it difficult to apply for UIF or other government funding during this time.

In April, several organisations published a report entitled [The Plight of the ECD Workforce](#).

Two months down the line, the situation made for scary reading. It described the "severe and detrimental impact" the pandemic might have on ECD providers.

According to a rapid survey of nearly 4 000 operators, 99% reported caregivers have stopped paying fees owing to the lockdown. In addition, 83% have not been able to pay the full salaries of staff over the lockdown period. Ninety-six percent said their income was not enough to pay their operating costs and 68% were worried they would not be able to reopen. That was two months ago.

There is no doubt the Department of Social Development has to take every precaution and ensure measures are put in place to keep small children safe. Centres cannot be opened at the expense of lives. However, officials need to prioritise this sector and ensure it gets the necessary attention it deserves.

Young children have to be properly cared for particularly at a time when so much focus is being placed on violence against women and children. They cannot be placed in circumstances which make them even more vulnerable. We simply cannot allow them to be left unattended and uncared for as their parents are faced with no choice but to go out and earn a living to sustain them.

Malema denial: 'I will resign if municipalities say I influenced VBS deposits'

By Greg Nicolson
Daily Maverick



In a briefing with journalists on Thursday, EFF leader Julius Malema denied he or his party benefited from the looting of VBS Mutual Bank. He said he would resign as party leader if municipal leaders, who made deposits with the bank, claim he influenced their decisions.

"I want to tell you now that if there is any municipality that can say we put money into the VBS because Malema said we must do that, I will resign all the positions of the EFF without hesitation," said EFF leader Julius Malema in a conversation with journalists on Thursday, 25 June 2020.

Malema was speaking to the media after multiple people have been arrested for looting billions from VBS Mutual Bank, which largely relied on deposits from municipalities across the country. EFF Deputy President Floyd Shivambu's brother, Brian received R16.1-million from VBS, according to an investigation commissioned by the SA Reserve Bank.

Daily Maverick investigations have shown how Brian Shivambu's company Sgameka Projects paid millions to Mahuna Investments, owned by Malema's cousin, Matsobane Phaleng, who Malema often referred to as his brother.

Daily Maverick investigative journalist Pauli Van Wyk showed how a Mahuna bank card appeared to have been used to fund Malema's lifestyle.

Van Wyk, who is based in Cape Town, did not attend Malema's briefing with a limited number of journalists on Thursday, tweeting, "Daily Maverick and amaBhungane are still banned from EFF press conferences. I will consider attending open and equitable press conferences when we are officially and publicly unbanned."

On Wednesday, Malema had tweeted, "Upon advice of my son, who insisted that if @PaulivW is not amongst these 5 journalists, it will look like I have something to hide. I have spoken with EFF and requested that @PaulivW must also be allowed to form part of this public interrogation session of myself on anything!"

The briefing was attended by Samkele Maseko from SABC, Aldrin Sampear from Power 98.7, Matshidiso Madia from News24 and Mahlatse Mahlase from Eyewitness News. Radio presenter Eusebius McKaiser was also invited but was unable to attend, according to the EFF.

Malema strenuously denied he or the EFF benefited from the looting of VBS. He claimed his cousin travels with him regularly, which explains why expenses on the Mahuna account appear to follow his movements. "I've never benefited any cent from VBS and why would I benefit from VBS, in exchange for what?" he asked.

"I've got no one close to me who benefited from VBS," he claimed. "The money my brother uses is not the money of VBS. It's the money of his company that comes from all types of sources."

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

South African private hospital systems still down after cyberattack

By Jan Vermeulen
MY BROADBAND



The IT systems of Life Healthcare Group have not yet fully recovered following a cyberattack on the group of hospitals two weeks ago.

A patient at the Fourways Life Healthcare hospital has told MyBroadband that the facility does not currently have Internet access. Staff at the hospital explained this was due to a cyber attack.

X-rays could also not be sent from the radiology department to the emergency room. Doctors had to walk between departments to physically fetch x-rays.

A spokesperson for the Life Healthcare Group told MyBroadband that the situation at Life Healthcare hospitals is not due to a fresh cyberattack.

"There has been no further cyberattack since [the] public announcement on 9 June," the spokesperson said. "Our hospitals are still having to implement manual processes as we work on safely restoring our systems."

Life Healthcare Group said that when it detected the attack, it immediately took its systems offline to actively contain it. Admissions systems, business processing systems, and email servers were affected.

"We immediately took these offline as a precautionary measure to contain the attack, conduct our investigations, and where necessary commence remediation," the company said.

An investigation into the attack is currently underway, including the extent to which sensitive data may have been compromised.

While the group may have decided to take its IT systems offline, it said that patient care was not impacted and hospitals continue to provide healthcare services as normal, despite some administrative delays.

Core systems unaffected

"First, and foremost, we wish to assure all the communities within which we operate, that this criminal attack on our systems will not affect the quality care and clinical excellence we aim to provide. Patient care remains our key priority," said Life Healthcare acting group CEO Pieter van der Westhuizen.

"We are deeply disappointed and saddened that criminals would attack our facilities during such a time when we are all working tirelessly and collectively to fight the COVID-19 pandemic."

He added that the company would not be distracted by this incident and would continue to focus on providing its patients with the best healthcare possible.

"We regret that the disruption caused by this criminal act may cause our patients some frustration, in what is already a trying time. We recognise and thank our employees, doctors and service providers for their dedication, and the professionalism they have shown by quickly adopting our manual backup systems," Van der Westhuizen said.

"Our investigations continue and we are working around-the-clock to restore the affected systems."

Iconic Cape Town bakery closes original location

By Katy Rose
EatOut



Lovers of all things baked and brewed were saddened to read about the permanent closure of one of Cape Town's best-loved bakeries, Jason Bakery on Bree Street.

Chef-owner Jason Lilley is the leader of the team of fearless bakers, known for their attention to detail and consistency. From slow-fermented sourdough loaves to impossibly flaky yet rich viennoiserie, this bakery under the command of Captain Bread himself has soothed many hangovers and broken hearts.

The Victorian building on the corner of Bree and Bloem street has a wedding cake feel with pillars and ornate railings. Back in 2011, [we wrote about its charm](#): "Drive down Bree Street any morning and all the little bar stools out on the pavement outside Jason will be occupied. Standing at the new hatch, which opens into Bree, is an ever-present queue of hungry businesspeople, hipsters and bacon croissant fans."

South Africans stuck in China barred from boarding connecting flight home

By Qama Qukula

Cape Talk

A group of desperate South Africans is pleading for help after they were left abandoned at the Guangzhou Airport terminal on Wednesday.

More than 20 desperate South Africans who have been stranded in China due to Covid-19 travel restrictions were meant to arrive back in the country today.

However, they were left abandoned at Guangzhou Airport in China on Wednesday, after being refused entry on a flight to Malaysia from where they would've boarded a flight home.

Despite having all the necessary legal documents from the South African Embassy in China, the group was barred from boarding the connecting Air Asia flight to Kuala Lumpur.

Images circulating on Facebook showed many of them sleeping on the floor at Guangzhou Airport after being left out in the cold. Most of them had spent their last money on the repatriation flight

Thanks to a plea for public donations on social media, the group was able to book themselves into a hotel while they wait for an intervention from the South African authorities.

Among the group of 23 South Africans are a baby, two pregnant women, and many people with chronic health conditions.

[READ MORE](#)

Theatres, cinemas, galleries and casinos to open under Level 3

By Karabo Mafolo
Daily Maverick



Amendments to Level 3 regulations means that galleries, cinemas, theatres and casinos can open provided that they adhere to health and safety protocols and have a maximum of 50 people.

These changes were published on Thursday night after being gazetted by the Minister of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma. The updated regulations came into immediate effect on Thursday night.

The amendments were gazetted as South Africa's Covid-19 cases rose to 118,375, with 2,292 deaths and 59,974 recoveries.

Cinemas and theatres

In the amended regulations, cinemas may open subject to a restriction of 50 people. Tickets must be purchased through a booking system. The regulations don't specify whether this should be an online booking system. "And strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures as provided for in directions that must be issued by the responsible Cabinet member," read the regulations.

For theatres, there's a limit on the number of performers and crew members – a maximum of 15 staff, including those live streaming or recording for distribution on digital platforms.

Casinos

For casinos, there is no limit on the number of people allowed inside – instead, the number shouldn't exceed 50% of the available floor space, with patrons keeping a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other. "This percentage may be increased as provided for in directions issued by the Cabinet member," read the regulations.

Museums, galleries, libraries

"Museums, galleries, libraries and archives, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures as provided for in directions that must be issued by the responsible Cabinet member, after consultation with the Cabinet member responsible for health," read the regulations.

The specific health and safety protocols for theatres, cinemas, casinos and museums have not yet been published. This means these businesses will have to wait for health and safety protocols to be published by the relevant minister before they can open. Gyms, night clubs, beaches and public parks remain closed. On-site consumption of liquor, domestic air travel for leisure, and passenger ships for leisure purposes remain prohibited. The sale of cigarettes is still prohibited

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



Brazil judge orders Bolsonaro to wear a mask due to COVID-19

By Ricardo Brito and Eduardo Simoes
Reuters

BRASILIA/SAO PAULO, A Brazilian judge ordered President Jair Bolsonaro to wear a mask in public after the right-wing populist attended political rallies without one in the middle of the world's second-worst coronavirus outbreak.



Federal Judge Renato Borelli ruled in a decision made public on Tuesday that Bolsonaro was subject to a fine of 2,000 reais (\$387) a day if he continued to disobey a local ordinance in the federal district meant to slow the pandemic.

Brazil's solicitor general, which argues the government's legal interests, said in a statement that it was studying ways to reverse the decision.

Brazil has more confirmed coronavirus cases and deaths than anywhere outside the United States. On Tuesday, Brazil registered an additional 1,374 deaths from the virus and 39,436 new cases in the past 24 hours, according to the Health Ministry. The novel coronavirus has killed more than 52,000 people in Brazil and infected more than 1.1 million.

That has made the country a prime location for vaccine trials, which began over the weekend for a candidate developed by Oxford University. Brazil's interim health minister said on Tuesday that the government would likely sign a deal this week to produce the university's trial vaccine locally.

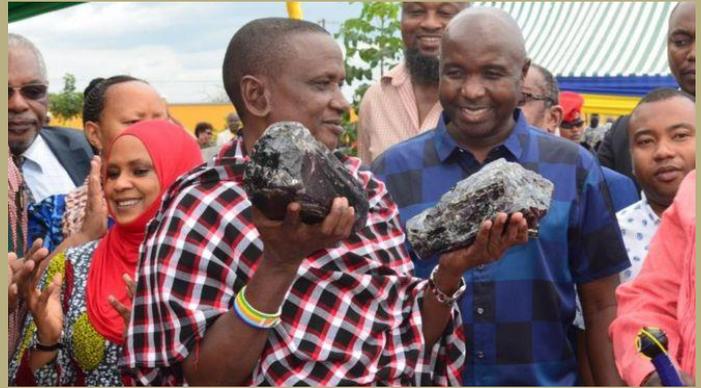
On other fronts, Bolsonaro has openly defied the consensus among public health experts for slowing the outbreak. The president has criticized lockdown and social-distancing orders issued by governors and mayors, saying their economic damage is worse than the disease. Echoing U.S. President Donald Trump, Bolsonaro has also pushed unproven anti-malarial drugs to treat the novel coronavirus.

But his most visible defiance has been going mask-less at a string of demonstrations in Brasilia, holding babies for photos and shaking hands with supporters.

Other officials have run afoul of the local mask rule. The country's former education minister, who resigned last week, was fined 2,000 reais for not wearing a mask on the capital's central boulevard earlier this month.

Tanzanite: Tanzanian miner becomes overnight millionaire

By BBC



A small-scale miner in Tanzania has become an overnight millionaire after selling two rough Tanzanite stones - the biggest ever find in the country.

Saniniu Laizer earned £2.4m (\$3.4m) from the country's mining ministry for the gemstones, which had a combined weight of 15kg (33 lb).

"There will be a big party tomorrow," Mr Laizer, a father of more than 30 children, told the BBC.

Tanzanite is only found in northern Tanzania and is used to make ornaments.

It is one of the rarest gemstones on Earth, and one local geologist estimates its supply may be entirely depleted within the next 20 years.

The precious stone's appeal lies in its variety of hues, including green, red, purple and blue.

Its value is determined by rarity - the finer the colour or clarity, the higher the price.

Mr Laizer mined the stones, weighing 9.2kg and 5.8kg, last week, but he sold them on Wednesday during a trading event in the northern region of Manyara.

Until now the largest Tanzanite rock to be mined weighed 3.3kg. President John Magufuli phoned in to congratulate Mr Laizer on the find.

"This is the benefit of small-scale miners and this proves that Tanzania is rich," the president said.

Mr Magufuli came to power in 2015 promising to safeguard the nation's interest in the mining sector and increase the government's revenue from it.

What did the new millionaire say?

[READ MORE](#)

Democratic Republic of Congo declares end of Ebola outbreak in east

By Stanis Bujakera and Hereward Holland
Daily Maverick



KINSHASA - The second-largest Ebola outbreak on record is over after nearly two years and more than 2,200 deaths, Democratic Republic of Congo said on Thursday, even as a separate flare-up of the virus continued elsewhere in the country.

Despite effective vaccines and treatments that dramatically boosted survival rates when administered early, the outbreak dragged on as first responders struggled to gain access to virus hotspots in Congo's restive eastern borderlands.

As that outbreak neared its end, another one was declared on June 1 in the western city of Mbandaka, more than 1,000 km (620 miles) away. Genetic testing revealed the two epidemics were not connected.

"The health ministry intends to capitalise on the lessons learned and the success factors from this long epidemic to assure the most effective response possible in Mbandaka," Health Minister Eteni Longondo told reporters.

There were 3,463 cases confirmed and probable cases recorded over the course of the outbreak in eastern Congo, including 2,277 deaths, Longondo said.

The largest Ebola outbreak occurred in West Africa from 2013-2016, when more than 11,300 people died from the disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Coronavirus pandemic: Tracking the global outbreak

By The Visual and Data Journalism Team
BBC News

Coronavirus is continuing its spread across the world, with more than nine million confirmed cases in 188 countries. Nearly 500,000 people have lost their lives.

This series of maps and charts tracks the global outbreak of the virus.

Where are coronavirus cases and deaths still rising?

The virus, which causes the respiratory infection Covid-19, was first detected in the city of Wuhan, China, in late 2019.

It then spread quickly across the globe in the first months of 2020.

While some countries are now starting to see confirmed cases and deaths fall following strict lockdown restrictions, others are still seeing figures rise.

[READ FURTHER - INCLUDES GRAPHS](#)

Court dismisses motion by Trump's brother to block tell-all book by President's niece

By Oliver Darcy
CNN Business



A judge on Thursday dismissed an attempt by President Trump's younger brother to block the publication of a forthcoming unflattering tell-all book by Mary L. Trump, the President's niece.

Judge Peter J. Kelly of the Queens County Surrogate Court in New York, where a motion to obtain a temporary restraining order was filed Tuesday by Robert S. Trump, dismissed the case citing a lack of jurisdiction.

Ted Boutros, the renowned First Amendment attorney who represented Mary Trump, and who has also represented CNN in the past, lauded the court's decision in a statement.

"The court has promptly and correctly held that it lacks jurisdiction to grant the Trump family's baseless request to suppress a book of utmost public importance," Boutros said.

"We hope this decision will end the matter."

"Democracy thrives on the free exchange of ideas," Boutros added, "and neither this court nor any other has authority to violate the Constitution by imposing a prior restraint on core political speech."

Charles Harder, the attorney representing Robert Trump and who also represents the President, said his client will continue to pursue legal action.

"Robert Trump, Mary Trump and the other family members who settled in 2001, agreed to jurisdiction of future disputes in the Surrogate's Court of Queens County, New York," Harder said in a statement. "This matter therefore was filed in that court."

"Today, the Surrogate's Court ruled that it does not have jurisdiction over the dispute," Harder continued. "Therefore, Robert Trump will proceed with filing a new lawsuit in the New York State Supreme Court."

In return, Boutros commented, "We are ready!"

The Tuesday filing in the Queens County Surrogate court in New York had argued that Mary Trump's book for Simon & Schuster, which was also listed as a defendant, broke a confidentiality agreement.

The filing said that after the death of Fred Trump, litigation ensued over his will. As part of a settlement, the filing said, a confidentiality provision was agreed upon by all parties, including Mary Trump.

[READ FURTHER](#)

'Gone with the Wind' returns to HBO Max ... with a disclaimer

By Chris Isidore
CNN Business



New York (CNN Business) Rhett and Scarlett are back on HBO Max, along with some criticism of slavery and race relations in the South that was missing from "Gone with the Wind."

HBO pulled the film classic "[Gone with the Wind](#)" from its new streaming service two weeks ago in the wake of national protests against racism and deaths of African Americans at the hands of police. At the time HBO said it needed to add "historical context."

The new version includes a 4-1/2 minute introduction from Turner Classic Movie's Jacqueline Stewart, professor of cinema and film studies at the University of Chicago.

She calls the film "one of most enduringly popular films of all time," as she points out that when adjusted for inflation it has the [largest box office](#) ever. She calls it "a film of undeniable cultural significance."

But she also points out that the film fed racist stereotypes of the time, showing Black slaves and servants as either devoted to their white masters or as incompetent, while denying "the horrors of slavery, as well as its legacies of racial inequality."

In the introduction Stewart says that there were protests about the film going back to the announcement of the original production, and that despite assurances from the film's producer that it would be sensitive to concerns of African Americans it presents "the Antebellum South as a world of grace and beauty without acknowledging the brutalities of the system of chattel slavery upon which this world is based."

Stewart, who is African American, points out that the film's Black cast members were barred from its Atlanta premiere because of Georgia's Jim Crow segregation laws at the time. And Hattie McDaniel, who won an Academy Award for playing the servant Mammy, the first Black American to win the award, was not allowed to sit with the other cast members at the Oscars ceremony in Los Angeles.

[READ FURTHER](#)

'It's like Armageddon': Bournemouth beach crowds spark fears over UK's 'staycation summer'

By Luke Mintz, Patrick Sawyer, and Martin Evans
Telegraph

Services left 'completely overstretched' as thousands descend on seaside resort on one of year's hottest days



It was a portrait of a nation at a loose end. Tens of thousands of people headed to beaches on Thursday as the national "hibernation" appeared to collapse completely.

Along the south coast, the beaches were packed with people defying social distancing rules, while roads were gridlocked. In the resort town of Bournemouth, the council declared a "major incident" due to overcrowding – a measure usually reserved for floods, fires or terror attacks.

It led Chris Whitty, England's chief medical officer, to appeal for calm, while Matt Hancock, the Health Secretary, threatened to close down beaches unless people stayed away.

Thousands flocked to Bournemouth beach during hot weather, ignoring social distancing guidelines.

By ABC News



The local council declared a 'major incident' and asked people to return to their homes

The UK has been in a strict coronavirus lockdown since March 23. Local authorities in the popular beachside town of Bournemouth have urged people to leave the town after it became "stretched to the absolute hilt" during a second day of a heatwave as temperatures hit 33C.

Fears over the spread of coronavirus between people packed on the beach, as well as gridlocked roads, illegal overnight camping, rubbish left on beaches and alcohol-fuelled fights forced Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council to act.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Australians are panic-buying toilet paper. Again

By Kabous le Roux
Cape Talk

What's it about Aussies and toilet paper? "Stop it, it's ridiculous!" Prime Minister Scott Morrison told fellow Aussies on Friday. "Stop it! it's ridiculous," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told fellow Aussies (who are, yet again, panic buying toilet paper) on Friday. Across Australia, supermarkets are running out and imposing quotas.



Gold Coast, Australia - Empty toilet paper shelves as shoppers start stockpiling, yet again.

The country's largest chains – Woolworths and Coles – are reporting a surge in demand for toilet paper rivalling the first days of the pandemic's arrival in Australia.

The return of toilet paper panic buying comes in the wake of a surge in infections in Melbourne, with most other regions having no, or a very low number of new infections.

For more detail, read:

[TOILET PAPER LIMITS IMPOSED IN AUSTRALIA TO STOP VIRUS PANIC BUYING](#)

Dixie Chicks drop Dixie from name; country group tries to 'meet the moment'

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters



LOS ANGELES, June 25 (Reuters) - Country music trio Dixie Chicks on Thursday changed its name to simply The Chicks, the latest move in U.S. pop culture to drop associations with the nation's racist past.

"We want to meet the moment," the band said on its website, without further explanation.

The word "Dixie" is associated with the U.S. southern states where chattel slavery was legal and which seceded from the union and fought as the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. This month, country band Lady Antebellum changed its name to Lady A, also because of the associations of the Antebellum period with slavery.

The Dixie Chicks formed in Texas in 1989, and became one of the biggest names in country music. The female band was shunned by country radio stations in 2003 after singer Natalie Maines said she did not endorse the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

The band responded in 2006 with the Grammy-winning single "Not Ready to Make Nice."

Musicians, television shows and movies have all been forced to re-examine the messages they are sending out in the wake of a national reckoning over systemic racism in the United States triggered by mass protests against police brutality against Black people.

The classic Civil War movie "Gone with the Wind" returned to the HBO Max streaming platform on Wednesday, accompanied by an introduction acknowledging the brutality of slavery.



SPORTS NEWS AROUND THE GLOBE

Liverpool WIN Premier League!! Reds' 30-year wait for top-flight title ends

BBC



Jurgen Klopp described guiding Liverpool to their first league title in 30 years as "more than I ever thought possible".

The Reds were confirmed as Premier League champions without kicking a ball on Thursday as Manchester City's 2-1 defeat at Chelsea meant they could no longer be caught.

Liverpool are 23 points clear with seven games remaining.
"I have no words," Klopp told Sky Sports.

"It's the best thing I can imagine and more than I could have ever dreamed of. It's unbelievable. Much more than I ever thought would be possible."

The German, who was wearing a Liverpool shirt during his interview and was visibly emotional, added: "Becoming champions with this club is absolutely incredible.

"It is an incredible achievement from my players... and a pure joy for me to coach them."



Fans celebrating last night

How Klop changed Liverpool into title winners:

[READ FULL STORY](#)

Covid-19 forces the cancellation of the hugely popular Spar Women's 10km Challenge

By Mahlatse Mphahlele
Dispatch Live



Organisers of the hugely popular Spar Women's 10km Challenge have announced that this year's Grand Prix has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

The cancellation of the six races that take place in the Nelson Mandela Bay, Cape Town, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Tshwane and Johannesburg between June and October is a massive blow to elite athletes who earn a living from these events.

Elite athlete and 2017 Grand Prix winner Kesa Molotsane said she was devastated that Covid-19 has denied her and thousands of women the opportunity to take part in the races.

"It's such a pity that us women are unable to participate in the Spar Women's Challenge series this year. I believe that women will rise stronger and braver when approaching the Grand Prix next year," said Molotsane.

Fellow elite athlete and multiple Grand Prix winner Rene Kalmer also voiced her disappointment after the races were called off.

"This virus hasn't been easy for any athlete and obviously the cancellation of the Grand Prix is disappointing," she said.

"But I applaud Spar and their six women's challenge races for acting in the best interest of everybody when making this difficult decision.

"I'm sure that thousands of women who enjoyed the Women's Challenge series like me look forward to a bigger, better and safer series next year."

Spar group marketing executive Mike Prentice said they are working on an improved event for next year.

Cape Town Marathon cancelled, but virtual race will go ahead

By David Isaacson
Dispatch Live



The Cape Town Marathon scheduled for October 18 has been cancelled, organisers have announced.

The virtual race, however, will proceed as planned with a marathon, half-marathon and either a 5km or 10km run/walk. All entrants will have the option of a refund or donating their entry fees to charity, race director Renee Jordaan said. Organisers said in a statement issued early on Tuesday that it had been a tough call.

"This decision did not come easy, but was one that had to be made after exhausting all our options," Cape Town Marathon chairman Francois Pienaar said in the statement.

"The reality is that we simply cannot risk the health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, supporters and stakeholders.

"We are grateful for the ongoing support of our sponsors, partners and service providers who share our disappointment but agree that this is the most prudent option in these uncertain times."

Athletics South Africa (ASA) president Aleck Skhosana echoed that it had been a difficult decision.

"It is also home to the ASA marathon championships. This is the only World Athletics gold label marathon in Africa and it's an influential nation-builder with a massive economic impact."

For more information:

[CAPE TOWN MARATHON WEBSITE](#)

Grand Slams plan ahead to avoid Djokovic fate

By Sudipto Ganguly
IOL



BELGRADE – Days after a handful of the world's leading tennis players hugged and high-fived on court in front of packed stands and partied together in carefree fashion some – including world number one Novak Djokovic – were struck down by the Covid-19 virus.

As a cautionary tale, it could hardly be more stark.

For while the images from the Adria Tour exhibition tournament in Serbia and Croatia were no doubt a fillip for some fans starved of top-flight tennis action, the organisers also tempted fate with the lack of precautions.

Though the players were not breaking government protocols during the tournament, which was organised by Djokovic, it highlighted the risks of athletes from different countries mingling without adhering to what have become social distancing norms.

Few were, therefore, surprised when Djokovic contracted the virus with Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov, Croatia's Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki having already tested positive after playing in his Balkan event.

Hindsight offers clarity, but organisers of the world's biggest tournaments say they will not make the same mistakes as they reopen the sport and seek to keep the players safe.

"There were a fair few learnings that have come out of that (Adria Tour)," Tennis Australia's (TA) Chief Operating Officer Tom Larner told Reuters.

"And whilst, certainly the whole event was actually really well-intentioned in terms of raising money for charity, the execution was clearly not great, as were the processes in place."

[READ MORE](#)

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



GREAT NEWS!!

SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT BECOMES A NEW AREA OF FOCUS

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment.

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants. It joins peacebuilding and conflict prevention; disease prevention and treatment; water, sanitation, and hygiene; maternal and child health; basic education and literacy; and community economic development.

Grant applications for projects will be accepted beginning on 1 July 2021. Gifts and commitments from Rotarians and others will be sought to provide global grant support for the new area of focus.

More information about this new cause will be announced soon.

Why is UK recycling being dumped by Turkish roadsides?

By Angus Crawford
BBC



An investigation by BBC News has found that some plastic waste from Britain sent to Turkey for recycling is instead being dumped and burned on the side of roads. The UK sends more plastic waste to Turkey than to any other country, but critics say the country doesn't have the capacity to recycle its own waste, let alone the tens of thousands of tonnes being sent from overseas. reports.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Curious shark sends surfers in South Africa to shore

By BBC

Authorities in South Africa have warned surfers and swimmers to be aware of sharks along the Southern and Eastern Cape coastlines.

Drone footage from Plettenberg Bay captured one group of boarders' close encounter with a great white.

[WATCH VIDEO FOOTAGE](#)

Barcelona Opera House Reopens With A Performance In Front Of A Majestic Crowd Of 2,292 Plants

By Jonas Grinevičius and Justinas Keturka
Bored Panda



Imagine playing such a captivating performance that your audience is so stunned and enthralled that they can't move. It's every professional musician's dream! Well, musicians got a small taste of that feeling and got rid of some of their quarantine rust by performing at the reopening of the famous Barcelona Gran Teatre del Liceu opera house on Monday, June 22. Their audience was (technically) live—2,292 plants filled the plush red seats and gave their full attention to the performance.

This was the first performance at the opera house since coronavirus lockdown measures started to be eased in Spain. The mastermind behind the event that included a performance from the Uceli Quartet string quartet was conceptual artist Eugenio Ampudia. The quartet performed Puccini's "Crisantemi."

Bored Panda spoke with the Artistic Director of the Liceu, Víctor García de Gomar, as well as with the artist, Eugenio Ampudia, about the reopening and the concert. Scroll down for our in-depth interviews with both of them.



[READ MORE AND WATCH VIDEO](#)

It Was A Great Day Till This Moment..



Whipped Myself Into A Frustrated Rage Trying To Find My Drill For Half An Hour



***Stay safe, healthy and take care.
Till next time.... Tanya***