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*Chartered 6<sup>th</sup> October 1992*



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**Meeting Venue**  
Helen Keller Society  
Pinelands

**Meeting Time**  
17h45 for 18h15

**Face book page**  
Pinelands Rotary, Cape  
Town Facebook

**TUESDAY**  
**12<sup>th</sup> MAY**  
**11<sup>th</sup> Edition**

**Editor:**

Tanya Stone  
Rotary Club of Pinelands



## Fellow Rotarians

I hope you are all keeping safe and looking after yourselves.

During Level 4 Lockdown, I have noticed that **most** people are adhering to the rules and regulations, certainly in the suburb I live in. Walking, running, cycling, moms and dads (enjoying the freedom) taking their toddlers out in prams, people walking their furry pets in the early hours of the morning (6-9am).

One set-back - it is dark at 6am and the grass is wet.

I have two golden retrievers. They excitedly leave home for their much needed excursion. They have no clue as to how strong they are. They pull their leashes so hard (due to excitement) and I land up walking, how I manage this I don't know, horizontally on the pathway! Because it is wet, I return home with two-toned dogs - legs black and upper part golden. Yes, they are diggers on the open field. This doesn't help. I have gone through so many wet towels, my washing machine is almost on strike! Aw, well, I am not complaining, at least I get some exercise, which keeps me sane.

News, articles and documentaries are below.

Enjoy!  
Tanya



**Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak situation  
TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020**

Statistics from Worldometer on COVID-19

**PLEASE NOTE:** Figures are time of publish and fluctuate constantly

**4,274,667**

**Confirmed cases**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**287,670**

**Confirmed deaths**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**1,537,315**

**Recovered**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**212**

**Countries, areas or  
territories with cases**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

# UPDATE



## SOUTH AFRICA Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

South Africa now has **11,350** confirmed cases.  
South African statistics from Worldometer and Department of Health SA  
on COVID-19

**11,350**  
**Positive Cases Identified**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**206**  
**Deaths**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**4,357**  
**Recovered**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**356,067**  
**Total tests conducted**  
Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

# UPDATE AFRICA



**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Africa now has **66,518** confirmed cases.

*Source: African Arguments: WHO; Johns Hopkins; nCoV.*

**66,518**

**Positive Cases Identified**

Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**2,344**

**Deaths**

Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

**23,143**

**Recovered**

Updated: 12<sup>th</sup> May

# NEWS

## SOUTH AFRICA



### From the desk of the President (11th May 2020)

Dear Fellow South Africans,

Since the beginning of May, when we began the gradual easing of the nation-wide coronavirus lockdown, many people have started returning to work.

As part of the phased recovery of the economy, companies in certain specified industries have been able to resume part or all of their operations.

The national coronavirus alert level is now at 4, which means that extreme precautions remain in place to limit community transmission. Our goal is to steadily reduce the alert level by keeping the rate of infection down and getting our health system ready for the inevitable increase in cases.

As the lockdown is gradually eased, life will slowly return. But it will not be life as we knew it before.

While there is still much about the pandemic that is unknown, experts now agree that the virus will remain a threat to global public health for some time.

We must therefore be prepared to continue to live with the coronavirus among us for a year or even more.

We must be prepared for a new reality in which the fight against COVID-19 becomes part of our daily existence. Our success in overcoming the coronavirus will ultimately be determined by the changes we make in our behaviour.

Even after lockdown – especially after lockdown – we will still need to observe social distancing, wear face masks, wash hands regularly, and avoid contact with other people. We will need to re-organise workplaces, schools, universities, colleges and other public places to limit transmission.

We will need to adapt to new ways of worshipping, socialising, exercising and meeting that minimise opportunities for the virus to spread.

This is a reality that countries across the world are having to confront. Even those countries that have started easing their lockdown restrictions are doing so tentatively and with extreme caution.

Like we have done, many countries are implementing extensive stimulus packages to strengthen their respective health care sectors, support ailing industries and workers and provide relief to vulnerable households.

Like us, they have had to heed calls for economic activity to resume. Like our citizens, their populations are restive and frustrated with the curtailment of personal freedoms.

At the same time, health experts around the globe are warning of a 'second wave' of infections as public life resumes. A number of countries including Germany, Iran and China have seen a rise in new infections since they relaxed certain restrictions.

We will be no different. We can and must expect infections to rise as more people return to work. We must accept the reality, prepare for it and adapt to it.

The next phase of our national response is as much about continuity as it is about change or innovation. We will step up our intensive screening, testing and case management programme. We will introduce new measures to make contact tracing more effective. We will need to implement mass sanitisation of workplaces, public transport and other spaces.

Since the nationwide lockdown began, most South Africans have observed the regulations that are in place for their own health and safety. They have made an informed decision to do so, understanding it is necessary for their own lives and for the lives of those around them.

As the restrictions on economic activity and daily life are eased, it is vital that all South Africans maintain that firm sense of personal responsibility. In all that we do, in every sphere of life, we must take care of our own health and the health of others.

Whether as individuals, employers, employees, government, civil society, trade unions or businesses, we will all continue to have a role to play in fighting the pandemic.

In the same way that we had to change our behaviour to prevent the spread of HIV, now we need to change our behaviour to stop the coronavirus.

Imposing a nation-wide lockdown gave our country a strategic advantage. It bought us valuable time to prepare our health system and put in place containment measures. This has slowed transmission and saved lives.

The transition to the next phase of the coronavirus response, that of recovery, will be more difficult than the present one. The risk of infection outbreaks will increase. The demands on our clinics and hospitals and medical personnel will grow. That is why easing the lockdown restrictions must not result in careless behaviour by individuals or reckless practices by businesses keen to resume activity at the cost of human health.

The coronavirus crisis will pass. But for as long as it remains a threat to the lives of our people, we must remain vigilant, diligent and responsible.

Now, more than ever, it is upon the conduct of each that depends the fate of all.

With best wishes,

## No, President Ramaphosa, this is not an intellectual exercise



By Ray Hartley and Greg Mills from the Brenthurst Foundation  
**DAILY MAVERICK**

### The Presidency has closed ranks around Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma's statement that government will not rescind the ban on tobacco purchases.

In his weekly newsletter explaining the turnabout in government policy, President Cyril Ramaphosa writes, "After careful consideration and discussion, the NCCC [National Coronavirus Command Council] reconsidered its position on tobacco. As a result, the regulations ratified by Cabinet and announced by Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma on 29 April extended the prohibition. This was a collective decision," writes the president, "and the public statements by both myself and the Minister were done on behalf of, and mandated by, the collective I lead."

South Africa remains a constitutional democracy, which favours openness, democracy and the removal of the injustices that were entrenched under apartheid. But there is, as we wrote in an [earlier article](#), a battle over the country's future trajectory. The reversal of Ramaphosa's announcement – and let's be clear, it was an unambiguous announcement that "When the country moves to level 4 on 1 May... the sale of cigarettes will be permitted" – suggests that this battle is being won by those who want a closed, controlled society where government intervenes strongly in personal life.

It is not the job of analysts to naively parrot public posturing about "collective decisions". It is our job to look beneath the posturing to evaluate how the political battle is taking shape and who is winning the war to make these "collective decisions".

It is clear that those who want to take rational economic decisions that would limit the illegal cigarette trade and bring in much-needed revenue (government has already lost more than R1.5-billion in tobacco and alcohol taxes) because the fiscus is in deep water, are losing to those who want to exercise social control whatever the price. The president has, whatever his newsletter might say, been undermined publicly.

[READ MORE](#)

## Covid-19: These are the inmates who will not be eligible for special parole



By Sesona Ngqakamba  
**NEWS 24**

While at least 19 000 inmates inside South Africa's prisons will be eligible for special parole to curb the spread of coronavirus, those sentenced for a range of serious crimes will not make the cut.

This as President Cyril Ramaphosa authorised the release on parole of low-risk inmates to ease overcrowding and curb the spread of Covid-19 in prisons.

On Friday, Ramaphosa announced and gazetted the decision in terms of Section 84(2)(1) of the Constitution together with Section 82(1)(a) of the Correctional Services Act 1998. In Proclamation 19 of 2020 gazetted on 8 May, Ramaphosa outlined only select inmates would be eligible and only released after processes have been followed.

The criteria for those eligible is that they were or would have been incarcerated on 27 April and subject to conditions recommended by the Correctional Supervision and Parole Board under whose jurisdiction the sentenced offenders may fall in.

In the proclamation, Ramaphosa outlined low-risk offenders who would be considered and those who had or would have reached their minimum detention periods within a period of 60 months from 8 May.

*READ* / [Ramaphosa authorises release of low-risk inmates to combat spread of Covid-19 in prisons](#)

They would also have been convicted for "petty crimes", which were elaborated on by Justice Minister Ronald Lamola. On Friday, correctional services department spokesperson Singabakho Nxumalo said there were three new cases of the virus in SA's prison network, bringing the number in the department to 177.

Nxumalo added three officials have tested negative, with recoveries now standing at 87.

***Who is not eligible for special parole?***

[READ MORE](#)

# Sums of our fears: why sending kids back to school is a terrible idea



By Jonathan Jansen  
Columnist  
**TIMES SELECT**

**NO-BRAINER** *Infections and deaths will rage out of control for the somewhat obvious reason that schools exist within communities, says the writer.*

Would you send your bundle of joy into harm's way? Of course not. The instinct of a parent is to protect your child at all costs even if that means sacrificing your own life in the process. So why on Earth does our increasingly authoritarian government think that it can open schools in the middle of a pandemic and assume that parents would rush off their children to school?

Simple, actually. Our department of education is obsessed with one thing only – completing the academic year at all costs, and that means covering the curriculum (even if it means “trimming” it down somewhat) and administering the final examinations.

In the rush to reopen, our education department officials flounder badly in full view of a nervous public. Notice how the dates for reopening have been changed four times depending on which official you spoke to on which day of the week. This partly reflects the ineptitude of the department and partly their own uncertainties about when it would be safe to return.

One thing is clear: they really don't care that much about the mental health of returning teachers or the emotional health of frightened pupils.

## So here are 10 reasons you should not send your child back to school – yet:

- We are in the middle of a pandemic. Yes, our case numbers and deaths due to Covid-19 are relatively low but the spike, say the experts, might only come in September or even later. This means that rushing children back to school before then could be catastrophic;
- We have not tested enough or traced enough or locked down long enough to have a confident sense of the extent of infections or even the actual numbers of people dead because of coronavirus. Who really knows the state of health in each of the 26,000 schools and what children and adults might be exposed to?;
- We do know that children seem to be less infected by the virus and that are their symptoms not as severe. But that is cold comfort for worrying parents when we do know that children have died because of the pathogen. What should concern all of us is a recent New York Times article with the title, [New studies add to evidence that children may transmit the coronavirus](#) (May 5 2020);

- We know that schools are complex ecologies. It is not only teachers and children who work in schools. It is cleaners, caretakers, administrators and the staff who make tea and serve food during the breaks. These humans interact with each other every minute of the day, quite apart from those who come in and out making deliveries to the school and parents who drop and collect their loved ones. Anyone who tells you that in this fast-moving mix of humanity you can limit the spread of the infection, is lying; They miss their friends. Anybody who predicts that the rules of social distancing are going to be honoured has never worked in schools.
  - We know that even before this pandemic the government could not provide the basic things that schools need, such as learning materials and sanitised toilets. That is a fact for most of our schools. You should therefore not believe that every school will have precautionary means in place, like masks for every child, sanitisers, temperature screeners, and effective decontamination of every living space. If you believe that such provisioning is even remotely possible outside of the middle-class schools, you have not been paying attention;
  - We know that teachers and pupils move between home and school and back to home. A teacher or pupil who is infected goes home to live with an aged grandmother, a sick spouse or older family members with dangerous co-morbidities. Short story, infections and deaths will rage out of control for the somewhat obvious reason that schools exist within communities;
  - We know that the phased-in approach (grades 7 and 12 are supposed to return to school on June 1) is to limit the number of children in school and therefore enable some form of social distancing. This logic makes no management sense for the majority of schools. In many schools expect half the teachers to stay at home, as allowed, because of diseases such as diabetes or hypertension. Now try to imagine an on-site set of subject expertise that matches perfectly the smaller classes with an adequately qualified teacher for all the Grade 12 subjects. Not going to happen;
  - We know that children do not only go to school to learn content. Ask any child in lockdown what they miss most about school and they are unlikely to say algebraic functions or the causes of World War 2. They miss their friends. Anybody who predicts that the rules of social distancing are going to be honoured has never worked in schools;
  - We know that teachers are going to return to school emotionally frail and physically exhausted. Children will need not only educational remediation but psychological support. Ignore such cold realities about the pandemic and the reasons for reopening – to catch up and advance learning – will deliver dismal results;
  - We know that if one child or one teacher falls ill and dies as a result of the premature reopening of schools, that shock will ripple across the education system with such force that the panic among parents will shut down schools for an even longer time.
- We do well to heed the experts, as in the NYT article cited above: “Closing schools is not enough on its own to stop an outbreak, but it can reduce the surge by about 40% to 60% and slow the epidemic's course.”

**My advice to you as parents is simple. Do not risk your child's health with all these uncertainties in the air.**



## Cape breweries feed the hungry by repurposing 'massive' brewing pots

by Qama Qukula  
CAPE TALK

### (see the article further down on the dumping of beer)

The SoupaGroup has come together to cook thousands of litres of soup a day using the pots that are usually used to brew beer.

It's a newly formed initiative that's reaching 6,000 people in need of food relief every day during the lockdown.

The soup-making operation is a collaboration between the Woodstock Brewery, Drifter Brewing Company, Stellenbosch Brewery, the District Six Working Committee, NGOs and many eager volunteers.

Craft brewer Deon Bing says Andre Viljoen, the owner of the Woodstock Brewery, was inspired to put his brewing pots to good use amid the alcohol ban.

He says that volunteers buy all the soup ingredients every day from the fresh produce market in Epping.

After the soup is cooked, the collective coordinates with at least 10 existing feeding schemes in communities across the Cape.

The SoupaGroup has also partnered with Blue Ribbon to provide bread alongside the hearty soup.

*"The brewery is just sitting with all these massive pots."*  
Deon Bing, craft brewer

*"Andre Viljoen was saying that for hundreds of years, whenever there's been a crisis, breweries are where people went to with their massive pots to make nutritious food."*  
Deon Bing, craft brewer

*"The District Six Working Committee has managed to get so many volunteers on a roster basis that are able to come to the brewery... to peel vegetables."*  
Deon Bing, craft brewer

*"It's bulk distribution, gradually filtering down so that it gets to everybody."*  
Deon Bing, craft brewer

The initiative has been going for almost two weeks and hopes to expand and keep going long after the lockdown ends.

Click here to learn more about [how to volunteer or donate to the cause.](#)

**Listen to the update on Afternoon Drive with John Maytham:**

[LISTEN](#)

## Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu has officially launched the Covid-19 relief grant application process.

by Qama Qukula  
CAPE TALK

The grant will pay eligible beneficiaries R350 a month for the next six months.

It's aimed at those who are unemployed and do not receive any other form of social support.

At a press briefing on Monday, Zulu confirmed that the application process would go live from midday, reports EWN's Jason Felix.

The grant will be paid from May to October.

To qualify, applicants must be:

- unemployed
- over 18
- a permanent resident in South Africa or a refugee registered on the Home Affairs system
- not receiving any social grant
- not receiving any unemployment insurance (UIF) benefit
- not receiving any stipend from student financial aid scheme NSFAS

### Here are official details on how to apply:

**SASSA**  
How to apply for COVID-19  
**R350 Social Relief Grant**

**STAY HOME**  
SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

- 1 Who can apply?**
  - An unemployed person
  - Must be over 18 years old
  - Not receiving social grants, UIF OR NSFAS stipend
- 2 What you need?**
  - Identity Document
  - Banking details
  - Contact Number – Cellphone number
  - Proof of residential address
- 3 Apply via...**
  - Send message to: 082 046 8553
  - USSD Code: \*134\*7737#
  - Email: [srd@sassa.gov.za](mailto:srd@sassa.gov.za)

Payments will be made through direct deposits into bank accounts or a money transfer to a mobile phone.

WHATSAPP SUPPORT  
0600 123 456  
EMERGENCY NUMBER  
0800 029 999  
[sscoronavirus.co.za](http://sscoronavirus.co.za)

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP

Zulu also announced that her department will recruit over 1,000 additional social workers to help assist more vulnerable families in need during this time.



## 'I'm not used to this much': what R740 means to SA's poorest

By Nonkululeko Njilo and Shonisani Tshikalange  
TIMES SELECT

Relief that is all too temporary arrives as long queues form in the wake of Sassa's grant-payment glitches



**WAIT OF THE WORLD ON THEIR SHOULDERS** Social grant beneficiaries, such as the dozens seen here queuing in Soweto, have had to wait longer than usual to plan around their monthly budget.

As the government began the payment of "topped-up" child grants on Wednesday, dozens of Soweto recipients braved long, winding queues to collect grants and buy groceries after some had to survive on food parcels.

The SA Social Security Agency (Sassa) was expected to pay 7 million beneficiaries who would receive an extra R300 in May (amounting in total to R740), and an extra R500 a month from June to October, as per the new government multibillion-rand Covid-19 fund.

The grant, which is normally paid on the first of every month, meant beneficiaries needed to wait longer than usual to plan around their monthly budget.

Thabile Vuso was among those who received their payouts at the Pimville post office.

The mother of two said she was grateful to have received her money after the long wait and uncertainties following technical glitches for other Sassa beneficiaries at various pay points on Monday.

Vuso said she joined the queue as early as 6am. "I was worried thinking what I would do if it didn't come out, because we have run out of almost everything," she said. The past five weeks had been difficult for her because she had been retrenched two months before the start of the lockdown. "I was in the process of looking for a job, then the lockdown came. My children and I had nothing. "If it was not for the food parcels, I would have been forced to go back home," she said.

While Mavuso and scores of others had the option of making withdrawals at any ATM, they said they could not sacrifice their cash for bank charges.

[READ MORE](#)

## Sea Point man pays a burning price for feeding the homeless



By Karabo Mafolo  
DAILY MAVERICK

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, Peter Wagenaar woke up to the sounds of his car burning. Wagenaar had been using his car to distribute food to homeless people in Sea Point, which generated ill-feeling among some residents.

One man's charitable decision to feed the homeless in Sea Point has sparked contentious debates on Sea Point Facebook groups. Now, 41 days since Wagenaar started feeding the homeless from his car, his car has gone up in flames.

"This morning, at 3.40am, I was sleeping and I heard the [car] alarm. I looked out through the window and I said to my wife, 'Don't get a fright, our car's alight. Call the fire department and I'll go outside.' Then I carried on with the day. We chatted to the SAPS guys and the fire department [when they arrived]. We came back [inside the house], I had a nice cup of coffee, fired up the gas stove and started cooking," said Wagenaar. Wagenaar, a real estate agent, and his wife decided to cook for the homeless people in Sea Point during the lockdown. This has sparked tension in the Cape Town suburb.

"It's like a mini-war. There are those of us who think that Sea Point is for all and the homeless [people] are part of our community and we must realise that that's a fact of life and we must learn to live alongside them. Then there are those who are trying very hard to get them removed," said Shelley Finch, a Sea Point resident.

Wagenaar has had run-ins with police officers since he started feeding the homeless. In one [video](#) that went viral in April, a police officer threatened to arrest him for feeding the homeless despite Wagenaar having a permit.

"This is not allowed. You cannot do what you're doing here," the police officer tells Wagenaar while his wife films the incident.

"[Wagenaar] is causing the premature death of many street people," Jacobson posted in the Atlantic Sea Board Action Group.

"When a person parks in a disabled bay or walks his dog, we have been asked to name and shame. If there was ever a situation that deserved name and shame, this is it," added Jacobson. Wagenaar, who's never met Jacobson, says that he has decided to not give Jacobson and those who are against him feeding the poor any attention.

"I chatted with my wife and said that it's pointless to give someone like that oxygen, they don't deserve it. They're spitting vitriol about me and putting my personal information [on Facebook] and saying that I'm going to cause the premature death of homeless people," said Wagenaar. Finch, who was removed from the Sea Point Facebook group for butting heads with Jacobson and others about what should be done about the homeless people in the area, says: "This is an ongoing issue of a small group of Sea Point residents who are bullying those of us who are trying to support the local community during the crisis. "It's this battle that's been waged across social media because it's the only place where we can actually talk to each other at the moment."

[READ MORE](#)

## UIF TO LITIGATE AGAINST COMPANIES WITHHOLDING COVID-19 FUNDS FROM WORKERS



By Theto Mahlakoana  
**EYE WITNESS NEWS**

It has emerged that some employers who applied for the special temporary benefit to cover workers' salaries in light of disruptions to workflows have not distributed the funds as required.

*FILE: Although the UIF has confirmed that the problem of non-payments by employers was not prevalent as yet, those who contravene the agreements will face the full might of the law.*

JOHANNESBURG - The [Unemployment Insurance Fund \(UIF\)](#) on Monday said it could litigate against companies withholding COVID-19 funds from workers to recoup the monies.

It has emerged that some employers who applied for the special temporary benefit to cover workers' salaries in light of disruptions to workflows have not distributed the funds as required.

At the onset of the crisis, the UIF - through the Department of Labour at the National Economic Development and Labour Council - resolved to centralise the distributions through employers and collective bargaining councils to avoid mass individual applications by workers.

Although the UIF has confirmed that the problem of non-payments by employers was not prevalent as yet, those who contravene the agreements will face the full might of the law. UIF commissioner Teboho Maruping said: "The other thing that we have agreed on is that if UIF wants to do an audit, they must open those accounts to UIF to confirm that indeed money was transferred to the employees and also that the money that was transferred to them was used solely for the purpose of the employees so that UIF can take legal steps where the company may have abused funds."

Employers signed a memorandum of agreement upon application that they would pay the funds over the workers within two days of receiving it from the UIF.

Maruping said the agency was sourcing a pool of auditors to interrogate whether all companies, which have and are receiving funds have done right by workers.

## CELE TO VISIT FAMILY OF KIDNAPPED, MURDERED DURBAN TEEN

*A 16-year-old matric pupil, Andile Mbuthu, was assaulted late last month after being accused of stealing alcohol from a local tavern.*



By Nkosikhona Duma  
**EYE WITNESS NEWS**

**DURBAN** - Police Minister Bheki Cele is expected to visit the Mbuthu family at Othongathi, north of Durban, on Tuesday.

A 16-year-old matric pupil, Andile Mbuthu, was assaulted late last month after being accused of stealing alcohol from a local tavern.

Six men accused of kidnapping and later murdering him made their first appearance in the Verulam Magistrates Court on Monday.

The group, charged with the gruesome attack and disappearance of Mbuthu, are expected back in court next Tuesday for a formal bail hearing.

On Friday, police discovered human remains believed to be that of Mbuthu in the Wewe River, about two kilometres from the tavern where Mbuthu was assaulted.

It's believed the police are still conducting a forensic analysis. Mbuthu's family has raised complaints about how the police initially treated the case, leading it to be elevated to the office of the KZN police commissioner Khombinkosi Jula.

Minister Cele is expected to address the family's concerns on Tuesday.

## Restaurants frustrated by lack of UIF payment

By James Mahlokwane  
IOL



*A takeaway meal. Restaurant owners are frustrated by UIF payouts not being made to all their employees.*

**Pretoria** - The lack of payment from the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) to restaurants continues to cause frustration and tension between owners and staff.

This was said by spokesperson for the Tshwane Tourism Association Andy Papadopulo who said the restaurant employment sectors experienced payment delays despite accounts having verified information provided by the restaurants.

He said what makes this whole situation more frustrating was the fact that the government lists publicly the names of restaurants that received UIF payment even when it's only a portion of the staff that has been paid.

"This also causes some tension or problems because some employees are sitting at home calling the owners asking when they are getting paid.

"However, you find that a restaurant with 30 staff members only received UIF payment for fewer than 10 staff members. Some of the employees even begin to think maybe the owner is withholding money from them.

"This is the situation restaurants are facing and it really doesn't make things easy because they are also dealing with the stress of severely declined sales. It's just hard to keep staff members paid when you're running at a loss this entire time, Papadopulo said.

Owner of Villa San Giovanni at Wonderboom Airport said: "I don't want to lie, we are in dire straits and this UIF issue is just costing us more because we are paying third parties to help us with claims, but we're still not winning.

"I have only received payment for 12 employees and 36 are not paid. None of the staff in management were paid and none of the foreign nationals staff were paid so far.

"I opened the restaurant for delivery and to rotate staff so that we can keep them paid for something. I also run Eat In Italian but that one is not open so you can see things are really tough.

"I have submitted about four times for payment from the UIF so I can pay my staff but to date we're still waiting. We give them R500 so they can at least buy whatever they need. I am part of a group that represents 400 restaurants and every single day we're coming across different frustrations experienced by other owners."

Papadopulo said owners of restaurants have been updating their workers so that they know what is happening. The restaurant owners would have loved for the government to create a platform for restaurant workers to also check with their ID numbers if their individual UIF payments were made. This would not cause misunderstandings.

## Cele says 253 cops infected with Covid-19 - more than double the tally of 8 days ago

By Jan Gerber  
NEWS24

The number of police officers infected with Covid-19 has more than doubled in just eight days.

Last Thursday, [103 police officers had tested positive for the virus.](#)

On Friday, Police Minister Bheki Cele said 253 were infected with "this invisible enemy that is attacking our members". He was addressing a joint meeting of the Portfolio Committee on Police and the Select Committee on Security and Justice.

"It is going to be much darker before it is bright. We hope our members will survive this time, we hope our members are going to be there to be part of the frontline to defend the rest of South Africa," Cele said.

He added police officers were highly mobile, often moving between provinces, but this might need to change as it could harm their health.

"Things will never be the same after Covid-19. Indeed, life has changed. Never thought criminals would transport drugs and alcohol in the coffins," Cele said.

Earlier on Friday, he told the committees the police have arrested a lot of people for smuggling cigarettes and alcohol, saying he had seen cases where people said they were crossing provincial borders to attend funerals, but then the police find alcohol and drugs in the coffins.

On Friday, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced [19 000 inmates convicted of petty crimes would be released](#) on parole to combat the spread of Covid-19 in prisons.

National police commissioner Lieutenant-General Khehla Sitole said the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NatJoints) had proposed a "multi-disciplinary approach" to monitor the parolees.

"From the South African Police Service side, we have established some avenues to monitor these particular prisoners, how they progress, in particular some intelligence," Sitole added.

They have also proposed a community-based reintegration programme "so that these people don't find themselves rejected and go back", he said.

## 2 MORE CT POLICE STATIONS CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19

By Kaylynn Palm  
EYE WITNESS NEWS

Western Cape police have confirmed that the Somerset West and Table View police stations have been shut after officers tested positive for COVID-19.



**CAPE TOWN** - Two more police stations in Cape Town have been closed due to confirmed cases of COVID-19.

Western Cape police have confirmed that the Somerset West and Table View police stations have been shut after officers tested positive for COVID-19.

Table View is currently operating from a mobile structure in the parking lot on the premises.

Somerset West is running from a building next to the station. The SAPS said that those who were in contact with the infected officers were being tested and quarantined.

A decontamination process is also underway and will take 48 hours.

Over the weekend, Muizenberg Police Station was closed and it's scheduled to reopen on Monday.

**Quinton Immelman was traveling from Rawsonville to Strand when the wheel of his land cruiser came off.**



by Sara-Jayne King  
CAPE TALK

A local pro rugby ref has thanked the traffic cops who rescued him on the highway after one of the wheels of his car came off. Quinton Immelman was traveling from Rawsonville to Strand when it happened. He told Kieno Kammies how officials sped into action to help the SA Rugby Union star.

*"It almost rolled the land cruiser. Luckily came to a stop and the wheel ran about 400 metres into some guy's farmland."*  
Quinton Immelman, Professional rugby referee - South African Rugby Union

*"It's the same part of the road where a lady got killed last year by a stone through the window."*  
Quinton

**Listen to the full conversation below:**

[LISTEN](#)

**It's best you look away. If you can.  
Millions of bottles of beer are going  
down the drain. Literally.**

CAPE TALK



The company is not allowed to bottle beer stored in tanks due to legislation that limits how much alcohol they're allowed to keep onsite.

Lockdown regulations prohibit SAB from transporting alcohol not meant for export.

SAB has begun dumping beer. 25 thousand litres went down the drain. Unable to sell or move current stock, SAB could dump over 130 million litres.

The ban, if it continues, could destroy a total of 77 000 jobs at SAB and the numerous small businesses that make up its supply chain.

Kieno Kammies interviewed Barbara Friedman about the day's "trending" stories, including this one about the beer.

**Minister Zweli Mkhize, Deputy Minister Joe Phaahla and Health MECs commemorate International Nurses Day, 12 May**

Issued by the Department of Health

On 12 May 2020, the world commemorates International Nurses Day.

The Minister of Health, Dr Zwelini Mkhize, the Deputy Minister Dr Joe Phaahla, together with MECs for Health in all 9 Provinces held a special candlelight ceremony for all nurses in the country.

The Minister participated from KwaZulu-Natal together with the National Department of Health Chief Nursing Officer, Dr Nonhlanhla Makhanya, read the Nurses' Pledge of Service, joined by all nurses in the country.

The Deputy Minister participated from Gauteng.

The candlelight and the reading of the pledge happened at the same time in all provinces.

This is in recognition of their hard work, dedication, sacrifice. This was to acknowledge the nurses role as frontline workers in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



## Wuhan reports 5 new Covid-19 cases

By Xinhua  
IOL



*A security guard takes the temperature of a student arriving for the reopening of school at a middle school in Beijing. The Chinese capital partially reopened schools for some students on Monday as authorities push to restore normalcy after the lockdown to fight the coronavirus.*

Wuhan - Five new confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19) were reported in Wuhan, Hubei Province in Central China on Sunday, the provincial health commission said Monday.

The commission said all patients were previously asymptomatic and were domestically transmitted in the provincial capital Wuhan. As of Sunday, Hubei had reported 68,134 confirmed Covid-19 cases in total, including 50,339 in Wuhan.

By Sunday, death toll from the virus in the province stood at 4,512, including 3,869 in Wuhan. A total of 283,118 close contacts of COVID-19 patients in the province had been tracked by Sunday, 984 of whom were still under medical observation.

After the reporting of a new case on Saturday, Dongxihu District of Wuhan, where the confirmed case lived, escalated its risk level from low to medium.

China has faced criticism both at home and abroad for downplaying the virus and concealing information about the outbreak when it first emerged in Wuhan.

Beijing has insisted it has always shared information with the World Health Organisation and other countries in a timely manner.

A top health official said Saturday, however, that the outbreak exposed "shortcomings" in China's public healthcare system.

## World news

Reopenings bring new cases in S. Korea, virus fears in Italy...and more

By Nicole Winfield, Vanessa Gera and Amy Forliti  
AP NEWS

**South Korea's** capital closed down more than 2,100 bars and other nightspots Saturday because of a new cluster of coronavirus infections, Germany scrambled to contain fresh outbreaks at slaughterhouses, and Italian authorities worried that people were getting too friendly at cocktail hour during the country's first weekend of eased restrictions. The new flareups — and fears of a second wave of contagion — underscored the dilemma authorities face as they try to reopen their economies.

**Italy** saw people return to the streets and revel in fine weather. Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala warned that "a handful of crazy people" were putting his city's recovery at risk and threatened to shut down the trendy Navigli district after crowds of young people were seen out at the traditional aperitivo hour ignoring social-distancing rules.

The Campo dei Fiori flower and vegetable market was also bustling in Rome. But confusion created frustrations for the city's shopkeepers.

In **New York**, the deadliest hot spot in the U.S., Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three children died from a possible complication of the coronavirus involving swollen blood vessels and heart problems. At least 73 children statewide have been diagnosed with symptoms similar to Kawasaki disease — a rare inflammatory condition — and toxic shock syndrome. But there is no proof the mysterious syndrome is caused by the virus.

Two members of the White House coronavirus task force — the heads of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration — placed themselves in quarantine after contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, a stark reminder that not even one of the nation's most secure buildings is immune from the virus.

Elsewhere, **Belarus**, which has not locked down despite sharply rising infections, saw tens of thousands turn out to mark Victory Day, the anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in 1945. Authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko has dismissed concerns about the virus as a "psychosis."

That was in contrast to **Russia**, which skipped the usual grand military parade in Moscow's Red Square. This year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary, but instead, President Vladimir Putin laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier and a show of military might was limited to a flyover of 75 warplanes and helicopters.

Worldwide, 4 million people have been confirmed infected by the virus, and more than 279,000 have died, including over 78,000 in the U.S., according to a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University. Spain, France, Italy and Britain have reported around 26,000 to 32,000 deaths each.

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## White House Races to Contain Virus in Its Ranks: 'It Is Scary to Go to Work'

With two White House staff members testing positive, some officials fear the disease is already spreading rapidly through the West Wing.



By Michael D. Shear and Maggie Haberman  
NEW YORK TIMES

**WASHINGTON** — The Trump administration is racing to contain an outbreak of the coronavirus inside the White House, as some senior officials believe that the disease is already spreading rapidly through the warren of cramped offices that make up the three floors of the West Wing.

Three top officials leading the government's coronavirus response have begun two weeks of self-quarantine after two members of the White House staff — one of President

Trump's personal valets and Katie Miller, the spokeswoman for Vice President Mike Pence — tested positive. But others who came into contact with Ms. Miller and the valet are continuing to report to work at the White House.

"It is scary to go to work," Kevin Hassett, a top economic adviser to the president, said on CBS's "Face the Nation" program on Sunday. Mr. Hassett said he wore a mask at times at the White House, but conceded that "I think that I'd be a lot safer if I was sitting at home than I would be going to the West Wing."

He added: "It's a small, crowded place. It's, you know, it's a little bit risky. But you have to do it because you have to serve your country."

The discovery of the two infected employees has prompted the White House to ramp up its procedures to combat the virus, asking more staff members to work from home, increasing usage of masks and more rigorously screening people who enter the complex.

It is not clear how many other White House officials Ms. Miller or the valet might have come into contact with in recent days, but many members of the West Wing staff who were most likely in meetings with Ms. Miller before she tested positive are still coming to work, according to senior administration officials.

Late Sunday, the White House put out a statement saying that Mr. Pence would not alter his routine or self-quarantine. The vice president "has tested negative every single day and plans to be at the White House tomorrow," said Devin O'Malley, a spokesman for Mr. Pence.

## Texas begins to reopen after Covid-19 quarantine – but political controversy and health risks await



By THE GUARDIAN

Greg Abbott has allowed businesses, stores and barber shops to open their doors even as the risk of increased cases remains high.

Tim Handren, the chief executive of Santikos Entertainment, a small cinema chain in San Antonio, admits his business is not essential. But while the giants of the industry keep their screens closed, he has taken a different approach.

Since last weekend, three of nine Santikos cinemas have reopened to the public, among the first in America to do so during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Take your mask off and relax," Handren said [in a recorded message](#) to customers. "Breathe in some great buttery popcorn smells, watch a great movie, and just enjoy some time with your family."

The reopening is among the starker examples in Texas, where one of the quickest and most expansive efforts to reignite the economy has drawn significant controversy.

On the one hand, some civil liberty advocates have argued that their right to drink at bars, have their hair cut and dine at restaurants has been curtailed. On the other, many public health experts warn thousands will become infected as the state reopens.

Handren, who is also the mayor of the small town of Boerne, said that although his cinemas would keep patrons 6ft apart and offer a reduced menu there remained debate in the community about whether the shutdown had been necessary at all.

"Unfortunately, I still interact with people that believe Covid-19 is a hoax concocted by the media after all this time. That's the extreme on that side of the equation ... 'We should have never shut down'.

[READ MORE](#)

## Pangolin immune system MAY shed light on how to defeat Covid-19



By Shaun Smillie  
**DAILY MAVERICK**

The animal fingered as the culprit that passed the Covid-19 virus on to humans, contains a mysterious immune system that evolved over millions of years and might just help mankind beat the pandemic.

Pangolins are the prime suspects in passing the Covid-19 virus on to humans, but a new discovery suggests the animal's unique immune system might hold the answer to defeating the pathogen.

Researchers at the Medical University of Vienna in Austria made this discovery while they were examining the genome of the Asian pangolin species, that scientists suspect were responsible for the coronavirus's interspecies jump to humans.

"We knew that bats have a reduced immune response against the virus, so we had decided to look at pangolins, because maybe they might have some genes that are different to other mammals," explains Dr Leopold Eckhart, a co-author in the study that was released on Friday (8 May) in the journal *Frontiers in Immunology*.

He was right.

"I was surprised to find that two sensors that are normally used by cells in other mammals to detect RNA viruses like the coronavirus, were missing."

These sensors, he explains, were no longer active because of a mutation.

How they operate in other mammals, according to Eckhart, is that they work like a smoke detector, that triggers an alarm when they sense a virus has entered the body. This then triggers an immune response.

But this immune response can be deadly, as those treating Covid-19 patients have discovered.

It can cause what is called a cytokine storm, where immune cells go into overdrive and turn on the body. They flood the lungs and attack them, causing blood vessels to leak and eventually organs to fail.

But pangolins don't appear to have this problem. In fact, they appear to be able to carry the coronavirus without becoming sick, and they are able to do this, says Eckhart, because of some unknown mechanism.

The team examined the genomes of other mammals, including humans, cats, dogs and cattle, but did not find anything similar to the gene mutations in the pangolin.

It is the absence of these two gene sensors that might have allowed the pangolin to pass on the coronavirus in the first place.

"This is speculation, but in a way you could make such a hypothesis," says Eckhart.

"I would say that a species that has a reduced defence mechanism may be more susceptible to be infected. But of course, it would not explain why a virus would go from pangolins to humans, as we know the virus is transmitted by aerosols. There are many open questions that we have not addressed."

Understanding how this ancient species that has been around for at least 20 million years fights off infection could help scientists in their search for a cure for the Covid-19 virus.

The authors suggest that pharmaceutical suppression of gene signalling, could be a treatment option for severe cases of Covid-19.

The problem, however, is that this approach could open patients up to secondary infections.

"The main challenge is to reduce the response to the pathogen while maintaining sufficient control of the virus," Eckhart says.

Professor Ray Jansen, the chairman of the African Pangolin Working Group, isn't surprised that these scaly anteaters appear to have an unusual way of fighting off pathogens. "Pangolins are full of goggas, they really are. The bacterial swabs that we have done of their oral and anal cavities shows that they are full of bacteria and other pathogens. You could call them a very good host to carry zoonotic viruses," says Jansen.

While pangolins are hardy critters when it comes to dealing with pathogens, Jansen has found that those that they have rescued from the animal trafficking trade often succumb to a number of infections. The stress, he believes, knocks their immune system, and many contract pneumonia.

Pangolins are not the only animals that are offering promise in the hunt to find a cure for Covid-19.

The New York Times reported recently that [a four-year-old llama called Winter](#) was discovered to have developed antibodies that neutralise the coronavirus.

Like pangolins, llamas have a unique virus-fighting mechanism. They have two types of antibodies.

One is the same size as human antibodies, while the other is much smaller.

It is these smaller antibodies that worked against the Covid-19 virus.

But much more work needs to be done on pangolins and the coronavirus. For one, scientists still need to confirm that it was indeed the pangolin that passed the virus onto humans. Ultimately, nature might have the cure for the virus, and it is just up to scientists to find it.

"I think there are a lot of valuable things to be learned from biodiversity. Our findings should stimulate more research into exotic species so we can learn from nature just how different animals have managed to survive pathogens," says Eckhart. DM

# ENVIRONMENT TOPICS AROUND THE GLOBE



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## HOW TO SAVE OUR PLANET



**Sir David Attenborough** explains how humans can take charge of our future and save our planet.

[WATCH HERE](#)

**WWF International**



# Something to Smile About

Written by Stephan Pöltner

Human beings are on top of the food chain.

In 1952 Vienna still suffered from the consequences of World War II, meaning that butter, for example, was, contrary to the countryside, not always freely available.

My Uncle Hans, father's brother, lived in the countryside and my parents took my brother and I to visit Uncle Hans. Aunt Julee, his wife, prepared a wonderful meal, at least in the opinion of the adults: rainbow trout fried in butter.

This was my first experience with fish, an experience with a very long-lasting effect (it took me 40 [!] years to try to eat rainbow trout again).

I don't say rainbow trout is horrible, but it is definitely horrible if, firstly, one does not know how to eat it and secondly, if the fish is cold and covered with lots of cold clarified butter.

How did I end up with a rainbow trout in such a disgusting condition?

Well, to say the least, nobody told me how to eat fish.

I simply thought that's normal meat and therefore I simply cut off a piece and put it into my mouth.

The problem started there.

Either those fish bones did not agree with me or I did not agree with the fish bones.

I simply decided that there was a clash of personality and a fish and I could not be on friendly terms.

My father, as rather often happened, was of a totally different opinion and told me that I was only allowed to leave the table once I had finished my fish.

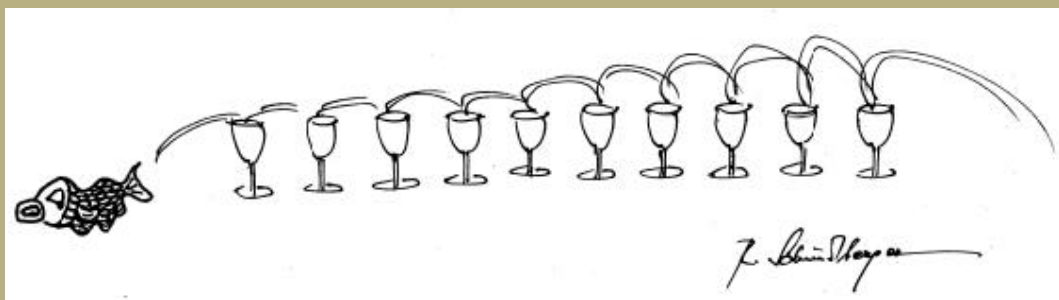
Thanks to my mother, I am not still sitting at the table.

## FISH

No, you don't need to rub your eyes, you have read correctly.

You won't believe it, BUT I also have a recipe for fish. I admit, there is only one recipe, but it's not bad at all:

### 'Bachelor' Fish



250 g Kingclip (or any other fish)  
3 tot Vodka  
2 tot Gin  
3 tot Grappa  
1 tot Armanac  
1 tot Underberg  
4 tot Barack

place the fish into a pan, add all the tots and simmer for 5 minutes. The fish is to be thrown away, but the sauce is **simply divine**.

*Stay safe, healthy and take care.*

***Till next time....***

***Tanya***