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MASVINGO

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ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MASVINGO
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DIOCESE OF MASVINGO REPORT ON 13 JULY 2020

On 30 March 2020, the Government announced that the country would go under lockdown due to COVID 19 pandemic. After one month, the lockdown was extended for an indefinite period, but businesses were allowed to open subject to adherence to COVID 19 regulations. The first COVID 19 case was announced on 20th March 2020. Confirmed cases are now 826 and 18 deaths. About 88,000 people have been tested. This number is far too low and it is highly likely that COVID 19 cases are more than the figures being announced by the government. Confirmed cases are mainly returnees from South Africa and Botswana. The returnees upon arrival in Zimbabwe are placed in government quarantine centres. There are reports that these centres are poorly equipped to deal with COVID 19 cases among the returnees. It is reported that most of the returnees get infected in these quarantine centres.

Currently doctors and nurses are on strike over pay and working conditions. The health workers have not been given adequate protective clothing as they contain the pandemic. Those seeking treatment are being turned away because there is no one to attend to them. Staying away by doctors and nurses is coming at a time when COVID 19 cases are increasing in the country. There are fears in the country that if there is an outbreak of COVID 19 in the country, many people will die because our health delivery system is very weak. Furthermore there is inadequate preparedness in health institutions country wide to contain COVID19.

The economic and financial crisis continues to deepen in the country. Prices for goods and services continue to rise making it very difficult for families to survive, especially those in urban areas. Many people are in need of food aid due to the recent draught. There is also a very high rate of unemployment in the country. Those who were employed have lost their jobs due to COVID 19. People living in high density areas are crowded and it's very difficult for them to safeguard themselves against getting infected since it's difficult to adhere to social distancing which is a very important COVID 19 guideline in responding to the pandemic.

Schools in Zimbabwe were closed on 24th March 2020 to contain the spread of COVID 19. Before the pandemic, the education system in the country was stretched due to economic crisis in the country. Drought is also a contributing factor. Diocesan schools are not spared from these crises. The start of the phased reopening of Primary and Secondary Schools has been set for 28 July 2020. Exam classes i.e. Grade 7, Forms 4 and 6 will resume on the 28th of July. Grade 6 and forms 3 and 5 will come after three weeks. The remaining pupils will come in three more phases. There are, however fears that boarding schools are not fully prepared to contain COVID 19.

On 11 June 2020 the government announced that Church buildings could be opened for worship while adhering to COVID 19 regulations. No more than fifty people are to be in a Church building at any given time. The Bishop issued a Pastoral letter giving guidelines to be followed during the reopening of Church buildings in the Diocese of Masvingo.

The COVID 19 pandemic has had a very negative impact on the Diocese. The mission of the Church has been affected and most plans for 2020 derailed. With Church buildings closed, the Bishop and Clergy had to think outside the box and come up with strategies to continue to minister to the Faithful, strictly observing COVID 19 regulations. This has not been easy since situations are different from place to place. The Bishop encouraged Clergy to be resourceful and initiative in order for the Church to be relevant to contemporary issues especially COVID 19. As a Diocese we continue to struggle to get used to the new normal, but it's not easy. We however continue to hold fast onto our faith and continue to worship even during these very difficult times. There is disillusionment, fear and anxiety among our people because of the pandemic. To address this, Clergy were sent resources to use as they shepherd the Faithful during the era of COVID 19. The Bishop and Clergy continue to raise people's hope in a situation that is characterized by hopelessness.

Due to lockdown, operations were suspended at Transfiguration Skills Centre Chidzikwe. De-stocking of pigs was done, chicken and egg production suspended. Since the relaxation of COVID19 regulations, activities have just started. Production of pigs is already underway. Planting of vegetables in the garden has started. Chicken rearing and egg production will be resumed this month of July. Plumbing was done at the centre and water tapes were fixed at various points. Two water tanks each with a capacity of 5,000 litters were installed at the centre. There is now enough water to embark on the projects at the centre. There are plans to enroll youth from the nearby community to get trained in market gardening, chicken rearing, egg production, piggery and crop production. The duration of training is three months. On completion the youth will be given starter packs to start their own projects. This will promote improved livelihoods amongst the youth. This will build a sense of self-reliance and hope.

Arable Land was prepared at Transfiguration Skills Centre Chidzikwe and planting of vegetable seedlings commenced. Pesticides and seeds for vegetable varieties were procured. Nurseries for tomatoes and leaf vegetables were prepared as well. We are using animal manure as fertilizer for plants, since it is natural fertilizer and easily available because we also have cattle, sheep and goats at Transfiguration Skills Centre. It is our vision that we have the capacity to supply the surrounding boarding schools with farm produce, given the availability of water and skilled personnel for running the Skills Centre.

On 16 June 2020 the Bishop and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches General Secretary had meetings with Masvingo Resident Minister and representatives of the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The Minister was briefed about what churches are doing in Masvingo province in response to COVID 19. Christian Care representatives who were part of the delegation also presented a report on other programmes being undertaken by Churches in communities.

See attached photos

Church of the Province of Central Africa Anglican Diocese of Masvingo



A message from Mothers' Union
St Agnes St. Veronica. St Benedict
AFU, Youth and Sunday School

COVID 19 prevention measures encourage staying at home with family in love and harmony, not to abuse each other. Let your home be a safe haven to everyone in the family!

TOGETHER
♀ ♀
WE CAN

**STOP
VIOLENCE**



IEC MATERIAL ON COVID-19 AND GBV DESIGNED AND DISTRIBUTED BY THE MOTHERS' UNION



THE PREPARED ARABLE LAND FOR TRANSFIGURATION CHIDZIKWE MARKET GARDENING



THE 2x5000 LITRES WATER TANKS FOR TRANSFIGURATION CHIDZIKWE YOUTH SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE



THE BISHOP CHECKING PART OF THE CATTLE HERD AT TRANSFIGURATION





GOATS AND SHEEP AT TRANSFIGURATION YOUTH SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE



THE BISHOP WASHING HIS HANDS WITH RUNNING WATER FROM THE TAP



CHECKING SOME OF THE DOWNSIZED DOR PIG POPULATION AT TRANSFIGURATION



STAFF PLANTING AND WATERING GIANT RAPE SEEDLINGS AT TRANSFIGURATION



THE BISHOP ASSISTING WITH WATERING THE PLANTED GIANT RAPE SEEDLINGS



THE BISHOP WITH SOME LAMBS FROM OUR STOCK OF SHEEP



SHOWING THE EMPTY FOWL RUNS FOR BROILER AND LAYERS PRODUCTION



SOLAR PANELS FOR POWERING THE CENTRE ON THE FOWL-RUN'S ROOF



THE BISHOP CHECKING ONE OF THE BEEF BREEDS OF CATTLE



TRACTOR USED FOR TILING THE LAND AT TRANSFIGURATION SKILLS CENTRE



PIGSTIES AND FOWL RUNS IN THE BACKGROUND



KITCHEN, WATER TANKS, AND FOWL RUNS FOR THE SKILLS CENTRE



VARIETIES OF TOMATO SEEDS PLANTED AT THE CENTRE



THE BISHOP (WITH A PECTORAL CROSS), WITH THE REFORMED CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE GENERAL SECRETARY REVEREND MASIMBA (FIRST FROM LEFT), THE MASVINGO RESIDENT MINISTER/GOVERNOR EZRA CHADZAMIRA (IN CHEQUERED JACKET), ZIMBABWE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SECRETARY GENERAL REVEREND DR. KENNETH MUTATA (HOLDING A BLUE NOTEBOOK), MASVINGO PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR MR FUNGAI MBETSA (IN BROWN SHOES) AND MRS DENDERE (MASVINGO CHRISTIAN CARE REGIONAL MANAGER) POSE FOR A PHOTO AFTER A CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN JUNE ON THE CHURCHES' RESPONSE TO COVID 19.