



ZIMBABWE

PRESS STATEMENT

BY

**THE HON. MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL RESETTLEMENT
ON PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL AGRICULTURE SERVICES DURING THE NATIONAL
LOCKDOWN**

05 JANUARY 2021

On 02 January 2021, the Vice President and Minister of Health and Child Care, General (Rtd) Dr C. D. G. N Chiwenga announced a 30-day National Lockdown in terms of Section 8(1) of the Public Health (Covid-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment) National Lockdown (No.2) (Amendment) Order 2021 (No.9) Statutory Instrument 10 of 2021.

Essential commercial services such as mining, manufacturing and agriculture will continue to operate as before. The Ministry has a mandate to guarantee household and national food security; clean water and sanitation services; plant and animal health services and delivery of agricultural commodities to the markets. The Ministry, therefore, wishes to advise the public that the following establishments shall remain operational during the lockdown period.

1. Crop, Horticulture and Livestock Production on Individual Plots and Farms and Institutional Farms, including all small-holder production;
2. Manufacture and Supply of Agriculture Inputs (seed, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, day old chicks, stockfeeds, tillage services and spares of agriculture machinery and equipment);
3. Manufacture of Water Treatment Chemicals;
4. Provision of Clean Water and Sanitation to households by ZINWA, Local Authorities, DDF and approved private sector players;
5. Provision of Water, Sanitation and Health (WASH) Services by UN Agencies and Cooperating Partners;
6. Importation of Grain and Agricultural Raw Materials;
7. Transportation, Processing and Distribution of Agricultural Products;
- 8. Manufacture, Supply, Importation and Installation of Mechanisation and Irrigation Equipment;**
9. Issuance of Import and Export Permits;
10. Harvesting, Transportation, Processing and Marketing (local and abroad) of agricultural commodities;
11. Plant and Animal Pests and Diseases Preventive and Control Services; and
12. Ancillary Agricultural Services Approved by the Ministry.

The farming community, agribusinesses, traders, and transporters are informed to work closely with officials representing the Ministry (Strategic Policy Planning and Business Development Directorate), Agricultural Marketing Authority (AMA) Officials, AGRITEX and the Zimbabwe Republic Police to obtain the requisite authorisation documents. All exemption letters are **FREE OF CHARGE** and anyone caught charging for these letters should be reported to the nearest police station.

Issuance of exemption letters has been decentralised and devolved to local AGRITEX offices and ZRP offices in addition to AMA and Ministry offices. Ministry assures the public of no disruptions to the smooth movement of agricultural produce from farms to produce markets. Kindly take note:

1. All registered agricultural markets will remain operational during the prescribed hours,
2. Transportation of all agricultural produce will be allowed from all production areas to markets, within and across districts, provided the transporters have valid exemption letters.
3. All vehicles carrying agricultural produce (Field Crops, Horticultural Crops), and Livestock and Livestock products shall be allowed passage at all the country's roadblocks and COVID-19 checkpoints.

The sector is encouraged to observe and maintain the intent and spirit of the lockdown by adhering to all preventive measures to ensure that members of staff are not exposed to or spread Covid-19. Farmers must take precautionary measures to ensure that their workers are either resident on-farm/ or are from the surrounding communities, and adhere to preventative measures.

The Ministry hotline is +263242790358 and email directoreconomics18@gmail.com or AMA hotline +263773100246 and jmanduna@ama.co.zw for further inquiries.

Hon Dr A. J Masuka
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