



PRESS STATEMENT

BY

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

30 MARCH 2020

On the 27th of March 2020, His Excellency, President E. D. Mnangagwa announced a 21-day National Lockdown during which essential industries and services need to remain open to support the health sector and ensure minimal disruption on supply of critical goods and services to the Nation.

The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement, in its mandate to guarantee household and national food security; clean water and sanitation services; animal and public health advises that the agriculture sector is an essential service and that the following critical productive industries, activities and services must remain operational with critical staff and strict Covid-19 preventive measures to ensure that staff and the general public are not exposed to the pandemic while guaranteeing minimal disruption of household and national food and nutrition security; public and animal health during and after lockdown:

1. Crop and Livestock Production on Individual and Institutional Farms as these are self-contained establishments;
2. Crop and Livestock Assessment for the 2019/20 agriculture production season necessary national food security programming;
3. Manufacture and supply of agriculture inputs (seed, fertilizers, agro-chemicals, fuel, day old chicks, stockfeeds, tillage services, spares of agriculture machinery, equipment, etc.), and support services;
4. Manufacture of water treatment chemicals
5. Tillage Services such as Land Clearing, Land Preparation, Spraying, Harvesting to enable smooth transition into the next season;
6. Contract Farming for Crop and Livestock Production under government and private programmes;

7. Trials and experiments at public and private research stations, colleges, and diagnostics laboratories;
8. Provision of Clean Water and Sanitation to the households by ZINWA, Local Authorities, DDF and approved private sector players;
9. Provision of WASH services by UN Agencies and Cooperating Partners;
10. Public and Private Grain Importation, Storage and Distribution;
11. Grain milling, supply of requisite raw material to millers, and related logistical services;
12. Processing and distribution of stock feeds;
13. Manufacture, Supply, Importation and Installation of Mechanization and Irrigation Equipment Services;
14. Issuance of Import and Export Permits as well as inspection of grain before shipment;
15. Livestock movement permits and meat inspection at slaughter houses;
16. Harvesting, Domestic Marketing, Processing and Export of Perishable Horticulture Produce;
17. Animal diseases preventive and control vaccinations against infectious diseases and treatment of sick animals;
18. Broader crop and animal health control services and national dipping programme;
19. Tsetse fly traffic control gates to stop spread to cleared areas;
20. Milk testing and transportation to collection centres and factories.

The 21-day lockdown period is a necessary ordeal to stop the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. The sector is thus encouraged to observe and maintain the intent and spirit of the lockdown by operating with skeletal staff and putting in place preventive measures to ensure that members of staff are not exposed to or spread the Covid-19 pandemic. Farmers must make every effort possible to ensure that labour used are either resident on farm, or from the surrounding communities.

Air Chief Marshal (Rtd) Hon P. Shiri (MP)
**MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE, WATER AND RURAL
RESETTLEMENT**