



*Investing in People for Social & Economic Justice*

## A reflection on #LockdownZimbabwe

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, ZIMCODD ran a poll with the question: Do you think the lockdown should be extended beyond 3 May? Explain your answer in comments.

The poll received feedback from a total of 623 people. Of these, 53% said YES while 47% said NO. For those that said YES (the lockdown should be extended), the sentiments were around:

- Testing capacity still very limited, number of tests done way too low against a +/-15 million population
- No data to make an informed decision on reducing impact
- Number of cases is on the rise
- Number of returning citizens is increasing, risk of importing new cases
- The country is not ready for a surge, health sector still in a bad state (in terms of medical equipment and infrastructure)
- The need to save lives
- The need for restructured lockdown model with exemptions to allow the economy to recover

For those that said NO (the lockdown should not be extended) their perspectives were centred on the following issues:

- Absence of social safety nets, Government's capacity is very limited
- Looming hunger threat
- The need to just tighten screening, testing, quarantining and tracking while people are free
- The need to open up schools and other economic segments while maintaining social distancing

## Anecdotal Evidence from Respondents

<b>YES: The lockdown should be extended</b>	<b>NO: The lockdown should not be extended</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We haven't had mass testing to get a true picture and see if the curve is reducing. YES because we are not testing enough people, hence we don't have the true picture of the scourge. This needs to be done before we start moving around.</li> <li>• We haven't tested enough. We've wasted the lockdown.</li> <li>• The Lockdown came when there was 1 case. Logic is that when there are more cases without massive testing the problem is bigger than when it started.</li> <li>• We went in a bit too early ahead of curve and didn't effect complete lockdown. Allowing things to return to normal after 3 May will be catastrophic.</li> <li>• Because the tested number in our country is still low even though we might perish from hunger but the number won't be equal to those of Covid-19 because we now entering into its favourable transmission weather. Do randomly testing in every town and see if it is down.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">#LockdownZim</a> should not extend beyond 3 May 2020 unless <a href="#">#GovtOfZim</a> allows more companies that provide essential goods and services to open.</li> <li>• Zimbabweans depend on a <a href="#">#hand2mouth</a> basis and if there isn't a solution towards that <a href="#">#COVID19</a> won't be a real threat but hunger will be!</li> <li>• There is no use of extending if nothing is being done by the government in terms of testing people. As a result people should be set free to continue with their lives and get food on the table rather than wasting time at home. God will protect us as long as people are cautious.</li> <li>• No. The government must look into easing the lockdown restrictions and upping the testing and screening of covid19 victims at roadblocks, toll gates, public roads , public transport, shops etc. otherwise our economy will not recover. People will simply starve to death.</li> </ul>



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockdown extension necessary. Never take chances with life. Safety first-There is no second chance.</li> <li>• I think it needs to be extended, until we are ready to deal with the pandemic, let's save lives.</li> <li>• Lockdown should be extended otherwise lives will be lost if Covid 19 is allowed to spread.</li> <li>• I don't think that we have enough data to make a decision yet, so it is better to extend. We have barely tested and so we do not have enough information to make an informed decision. Our health service is so bad: to put it under any extra strain at all will be disastrous.</li> <li>• Truth is we can't afford to increase the number of positive Covid 19 cases because then the death toll starts exponentially rising because we don't have the adequate medical facilities and equipment to tackle this monster of a virus.</li> <li>• Obviously some sort of lockdown should be maintained. However a restructuring of the model is required.</li> <li>• It should be extended but with further exemptions for economic reasons. I say this because the recovery percentage is good but however the number of cases is on the increase. Therefore it's wise to continue with social distancing measures and lift the ban on business gradually. Extend and:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Invest in masks and sanitisers. Support the small industries so that people are protected. Encourage social distancing for those who can work remotely. Decongesting public places remains key-area satellite markets, operating area clinics etc</li> <li>○ Make it mandatory for everyone in the public sphere to put on protective clothing including punitive measures for those that will fail to comply.</li> <li>○ Provide basics such as water and food especially mealie-meal otherwise social distancing remains a pipedream as the majority poor jostle for these.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. Our figures are within control. We have 22 active cases and these can be monitored. Returnees maintain the current stance. Limit grouping to 20. Combis not more than 10 passengers. This will give us a head start in recouping the economic losses.</li> <li>• Seeing as borders are closed and few cases we should open economy and send at least 2020+2021 examination candidates to school</li> <li>• Testing makes no difference when all positive cases are misconstrued to be malaria, why should we die of hunger under such a lockdown (Zvakangofanana...vakutestwa vacho vese iri kungonzi Malaria so tikufira nenzara mudzimba mahara)</li> <li>• I voted NO because I'm not going to wait for the food in the house to run out, either the disease or hunger will kill me</li> <li>• NO if we ramp up testing and are able to disinfect, provide PPE and regular testing for those returning to work</li> <li>• We will otherwise die of hunger as we have only been spending without any income (Tofa nenzara instead of Covid 19 coz hatina kwatirikuwana mari tirikungoburitsa chete since kutanga kwe lockdown so ummmmm msadaro)</li> <li>• Our National accounts needs greasing. They are drying. Government cannot take care of our stomachs beyond Sunday. We need to put food on our tables. We have ate our businesses stocks and capital. We can't afford an extension</li> </ul> |
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