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Comm. Collateral: Media Release

Reference: Citizen Entrepreneurial Development Agency Temporarily Decongests Amidst Covid-19 Pandemic

Embargo: Immediate Release

The Agency has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic through updates from the Ministry of Health & Wellness (MHW) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) and has put into place measures to protect its employees. A Crisis Management Committee has been set up to come up with strategies on how to address the latest developments and trends regarding the outbreak.

To this end, the Crisis Management Committee has taken an informed decision to temporarily scale down the number of employees in every department/branch as of tomorrow (24th March, 2020) for an initial period of two (2) weeks, after which the situation shall be reviewed. Out of a total of 299 employees, the Agency will immediately place 42% of all employees across the entire Agency on two (2) weeks home-stay to create a physical decongested environment.

The Agency will continue to operate with the remaining number of employees across all departments/branches with the Crisis Management Committee continuing to monitor the situation.

There are measures that have been put into place for the remaining employees across all branches being:

- a resident nurse being placed at all offices and all remaining staff encouraged to visit the nurse at least once a week,
- the engagement of a local wellness solution organisation to provide awareness and skills workshops, health talks and counselling for employees and stakeholders (security & cleaning services) for workplace preparedness in the fight against this pandemic,
- all employees discouraged from embarking on any non-essential local travel as well as personal international travel,
- any events that require congregation of staff in large numbers in line with the President of the Republic of Botswana's cautionary message will be postponed until further notice,
- placement of hand sanitiser dispensers across all branches for all our walk-in clients and employees in an effort to fight the daily battle of the spread of the COVID-19,
- spreading of employees in their work spaces to ensure a minimum of 1.5 metres between them,
- use of technology where possible (online client payments, phone enquiries, online meetings, etc.) to reduce traffic at all offices.

We will continue to provide updates on any changes the Agency makes with regards to daily operations. To this end, we would like to encourage the nation at large to stand united and remain calm during this trying period.

For any further information kindly contact:

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