



The power of the white world is threatened whenever a black man refuses to accept the white world's definitions

JAMES BALDWIN
American novelist



ICYMI | IOL.CO.ZA

FEEDING IS ALL URBAN GARDEN TRENDSETTER WANTS TO DO

60-YEAR-OLD former nurse Refiloe Molefe has been farming on a 500-square-metre bowling green for more than a decade, after she asked the city for food for the crèche she was running for 15 children.

COVID-19

Retailers to stem panic buying

NATHAN ADAMS
nathan.adams@ioli.co.za

Stores also warned against hiking prices amid coronavirus crisis

RETAILERS have begun to take extreme measures to curb panic buying and prevent shoppers from emptying the shelves.

This week saw a mad dash across the country for hand sanitisers, toilet paper and tinned food as South Africans came to grips with self-isolation and the growing possibility of a lockdown and having to quarantine themselves at home.

Makro yesterday announced that it would limit the number of shoppers at a time.

"In the interest of you and your health, we will be limiting the number of shoppers at our stores beginning March 21, 2020. This is in line with the ideals of social distancing in order to reduce the spread of the virus."

Clicks was one of the first retailers to limit the quantity of items a customer may purchase.

Chief commercial officer Rachel Wigglesworth said: "In response to the unprecedented demand and to help give everyone access to essentials, we are limiting products to six items per customer. This is on all our front shop products, including hand sanitisers, toilet paper, vitamins, children's medicine and pain relief."

Shoprite has gone one step further and is limiting shoppers to only three items per person at checkout.

It confirmed that "demand has increased for sanitary (including toilet paper), hygiene and baby products, dry pasta, UHT milk, tinned foods, immune boosters and vitamins."

But the retailer would not be drawn on exact sales volumes.

Dis-Chem has also implemented limitations on products and confirmed that after President Cyril Ramaphosa last weekend proclaimed a national State of Disaster, sales spiked.

In a statement, Dis-Chem said it had seen a steady increase in the sale of volumes of goods related to hygiene, health supplements and medical care since the original outbreak gained momentum in Wuhan, China.

In terms of more significant short-term spikes in these volumes, this seems to have been driven by the news cycle and information flow.

At Woolworths in Columbine Square, Winchester Hills, south of Johannesburg, a list on the shelves

informs customers that purchases of only five items per product will be allowed, although most shelves were empty on Friday.

Shoprite in the same complex had empty shelves and items such as soap and beans were almost sold out.

A cashier said there was mad buying during the week as people tried to fill up their trolleys with as many items as possible.

Most retail advertisers have pulled adverts from newspapers, saying they don't have enough items in stock, although they had announced during the week that they have enough for everyone.

The National Consumer Commission and the Consumer Goods Council of SA met major retailers and the

Department of Trade and Industry this week to once again caution against the issue of excessive price hikes on items such as face masks, hand sanitisers and gloves.

While all the retailers committed to fair pricing, the Progressive Professionals Forum urged shoppers to lodge formal complaints when they see retailers hiking prices.

"The South African government has declared excessive pricing on goods such as surgical masks, hand sanitiser, disinfectant cleaners, etc, illegal. Any retailer that hikes the price of these items unduly could be fined up to R1 million or up to 12 months' imprisonment," said Kashif Wicomb, president.

If anyone has a complaint about excessive price increases they can contact the National Consumer Commission call centre on 0800 014 880.

WEATHER GAUTENG

TODAY'S FORECAST
Partly cloudy

JOHANNESBURG 15 | 26



LOCAL TEMPERATURES

| | Min | Max |
|----------------|-----|-----|
| Pretoria | 16 | 28 |
| Vereeniging | 14 | 24 |
| Nelspruit | 19 | 28 |
| Polokwane | 17 | 27 |
| Cape Town | 16 | 25 |
| Durban | 21 | 30 |
| Port Elizabeth | 15 | 26 |
| East London | 21 | 27 |
| George | 15 | 23 |
| Bloemfontein | 14 | 29 |
| Kimberley | 16 | 30 |
| Upington | 20 | 36 |

JOHANNESBURG 5-DAY FORECAST

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------|
| Monday | Partly cloudy | 14 25 |
| Tuesday | Partly cloudy | 15 26 |
| Wednesday | Partly cloudy | 15 26 |
| Thursday | Partly cloudy | 16 26 |
| Friday | Partly cloudy | 15 25 |

Coming phases of the moon

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| New moon | March 24 |
| First quarter | April 1 |
| Full moon | April 8 |
| Last quarter | April 15 |

Moonrise 04:23 | Moonset 17:33

GAUTENG TODAY

Sunrise 06:13 Sunset 18:16
Humidity 40% Wind: Variable

INTERNATIONAL TEMPERATURES

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------------|----|----|
| Harare | 15 | 28 | Ottawa | -6 | 0 |
| Abuja | 24 | 39 | Washington | 4 | 11 |
| Cairo | 15 | 25 | Brasilia | 20 | 26 |
| Jerusalem | 2 | 13 | Moscow | -4 | -1 |
| Rome | 10 | 18 | New Delhi | 28 | 35 |
| Madrid | 8 | 15 | Beijing | 13 | 25 |
| Paris | 4 | 11 | Tokyo | 14 | 23 |
| London | 1 | 8 | Canberra | 11 | 24 |
| Berlin | 0 | 5 | Wellington | 15 | 18 |



MEMBERS of civil defence evacuate Iraqis after their house was flooded due to heavy rains in Mosul city, northern Iraq, this week. | AMMAR SALIH EPA-EFE

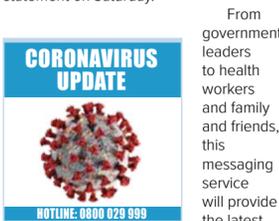
More forecasts, weatherSA.co.za

MESSAGING SERVICE

WHO TO PROVIDE INFO VIA WHATSAPP

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a messaging service with partners WhatsApp and Facebook to keep people safe from novel coronavirus (Covid-19).

"This easy-to-use messaging service has the potential to reach two billion people and enables WHO to get information directly into the hands of the people that need it," the WHO said in a statement on Saturday.



From government leaders to health workers and family, this messaging service will provide the latest news and information on coronavirus, including details on symptoms and how people can protect themselves and others from this pandemic.

It also provides the latest situation reports and numbers of cases in real time to help government decision-makers protect the health of their populations.

The service can be accessed through a link - <http://bit.ly/who-covid19-whatsapp> - that opens a conversation on WhatsApp.

Users can simply type "hi" to activate the conversation, prompting a menu of options that can help answer their questions about Covid-19. | African News Agency (ANA)



IFTIKHAR Ahmad, a Pakistani shopkeeper, is one of the very few wearing a mask in Diepsloot township north of Johannesburg yesterday. For most people the virus causes only mild or moderate symptoms. For others it can cause more severe illness, especially in older adults and people with existing health problems. | JEROME DELAY AP

COMMENTARY

'We need to reach out to our artists'

ROSEMARY MANGOPE

NOW more than ever, during this time of fear and turmoil, we need to step up and show our humanity. In particular, let's spare a thought for our artists.

With events being cancelled, it's dealing a hefty blow to thousands of South Africans who rely on live performance for their daily bread.

Musicians, theatre actors, comedians, dancers, DJs, technicians, promoters, event organisers and vendors, as well as hospitality, security and support staff - they have all been dealt a sucker punch by this most unforgiving of public health emergency.

Big-ticket events like the Cape Town Jazz Festival, the Constitution Hill Human Rights Festival, the Cape Town Carnival, AfrikaBurn and the Klein Karoo National Arts Festival have been cancelled.

Theatres have closed their doors, with the SA State Theatre admitting: "We are fully cognisant of the sad but unavoidable reality that some of the cancellations and suspensions will most probably deal a catastrophic blow to some of the entities and practitioners in the arts, culture and heritage sector."

International shows such as Slava's Snow Show, The Waterboys and The Lighthouse Family have also been put on ice. An even larger number of smaller gigs have fallen by the wayside, too - even those potentially reaching fewer than 100 people, the limit on such gatherings. Uncertainty is our new currency.

The reality is that most of our

people who work in the creative industries do not have much of a financial or social safety net, let alone any padding, to see them comfortably through this crisis. Many already live a hand-to-mouth existence, which has been further imperilled by the virus outbreak. So, how can we help?

The obvious, broad-ranging answer is that we need to rally together as an artistic community and support our own. Already, the compassion and empathy out there have been heartening - but the situation that has been forced upon us has also raised some tough questions.

Singer Martin "Cito" Otto of Wonderboom fame weighed in on Facebook, saying that the lockdown was going to "make us really stop, assess and make decisions about how we will adapt to this ever-changing industry... If we're depending upon the next gig to survive, and that's life for most people in this country, we have to find a way to survive and thrive beyond live performances."

"I know that plenty of crafty musos will come up with clever ideas to capitalise on the situation by streaming performances, private home tours, hospital serenades, quirky videos, etc. Thing is, this is a global issue that levels the playing field for everyone. As much as we have to be apart from

each other, we are not alone in this." Live performance is by its very nature live and in the moment, and is exciting and thrilling because of it. Will it be diluted if it's transferred into cyberspace?

Not necessarily. Internationally, we've seen the likes of Coldplay's Chris Martin and John Legend doing intimate live-streamed performances on Instagram to keep people's spirits up, using the hashtag #TogetherAtHome.

An online group called The Show Must Go Online is reading Shakespeare's plays, live-streamed on YouTube; and a group of actors and writers called The 24-Hour Plays has launched The Viral Monologues on Instagram TV. That's great for boosting morale, but how can we monetise such virtual gigs?

Luckily, we know that South Africa's artists are nothing if not resourceful. We've seen how, in the past, adversity has bred exceptional creativity. And true to form, they've already started coming up with novel ways to keep their spirits up - and ours, too.

The National Arts Council has announced an ambitious plan to go "100% virtual" this year - and we are confident that its track record of pioneering innovation.

"Uncertainty is our new currency."

Rosemary Mangope
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL CEO

I also love the attitude of venues such as the Baxter Theatre Centre and the Fugard Theatre. When announcing that their upcoming shows are being halted due to the Covid-19, they appealed to patrons to donate the cost of their tickets rather than asking for a refund - saying "the livelihood of many performing arts professionals is at stake".

The Auto & General Theatre on the Square in Sandton has postponed its scheduled performances, but proprietor Daphne Kuhn has elected to continue to operate small weekly matinee music concerts, limited to 60 people in the 200-seater theatre. A great way to keep the doors open!

Across the world, there have been calls for governments to introduce "emergency industry support packages" while we battle the coronavirus outbreak, so that those in the creative industries can stay afloat.

As mentioned in industry meetings with Sports, Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa this week, an idea has been floated for radio stations and other electronic media platforms to increase the proportion of local music they play, translating into extra royalties for music creators down the line.

The National Arts Council, for one, pledges to support and assist wherever possible - and our call for funding applications remains open until 30 April 2020.

Rosemary Mangope is the CEO of the National Arts Council

ANC

Skirmishes put end to meetings

KENNETH MOKGATLHE

FOLLOWING reports of violent clashes that left at least two people dead in several branch nomination meetings for the provincial conference, the Mpumalanga region of the ANC has decided to suspend all scheduled gatherings until further notice.

The skirmishes resulted in the deaths and hospitalisation of several people after members allegedly used guns, knives and chairs during the scuffles that broke out at some meetings.

Acting provincial secretary Lindiwe Ntshahintshali blamed the fights on lack of tolerance between ANC members. "The conflict experienced by the ANC in Mpumalanga is caused by the intolerance of members towards each other's views. It is expected that during the build-up period of elective conferences, members will align themselves to a particular view on leadership preferences. However, within that framework of contestation, members are cautioned to exercise maximum discipline and tolerance for each other because post the conferences these members need to come back to the table and work together to contest elections," Ntshahintshali said.

When Sunday Independent asked the acting provincial chairperson of the ANC about those behind the violence, Mandla Ndlovu said: "We are waiting for the official report from regional executive councils."

"But, generally, it is sponsored by people who want to push branches to endorse their preferences."

"Unfortunately, our branches are much schooled about our guidelines as such, they will reject manipulation even if perpetuated by leaders."

However, Ndlovu warned that the ANC would deal decisively with the perpetrators of violence.

"We will also use the break to rebuild political consciousness of our members to assist in the renewal programme of the ANC."

The province will officially replace former chairperson David Mabuza as he was elected deputy president of the ANC in 2017.

Ndlovu and Refilwe Mtsweni were expected to contest the chairperson candidature when the conference sits.

Political analyst Dr Ralph Matheka dismissed Ntshahintshali's view, arguing that the violence existed as a result of selfishness to occupy positions. "This is just very unfortunate, the stakes are very high in the ANC for positions. The length that people would go to occupy positions, they kill for positions. The people killing each other are from the ANC, you will see them during the court cases supporting those who have been accused of killing," Matheka said.

"The ANC attracts types of cadres who are very desperate. The ANC can get a career programme. Jobs, power and money have to be taught at political school, encouraging members to build their careers."