

VERY  
URGENT



**'WE NEED TO BE PATIENT AND EXTRA CAREFUL ON REOPENING BARS/NIGHTCLUBS'**

**Lusaka, (Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020) ---- His Excellency, Dr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia** has received recommendations for the reopening of bars and night clubs from stakeholders but says he will be guided by socio-economic and health considerations before announcing the reopening.

The President says owners of bars and night clubs and their patrons need to be more patient because the country has done well in stemming the spread of COVID-19 and it will be a disaster to make a decision that would push back the gains that have been made so far.

"Yes the recommendations have been received but we need to be careful because the numbers have not dropped and this is the month that we were told could decide how the pandemic evolves," the President said.

The President said citizens would be informed about the reopening of bars and nightclubs once conditions allow.

"It is also important to note that it is not just bars and nightclubs, we also need to reopen the airports that were closed as well as various sports," the President said.

And the President has assured sports fans that sports activities will resume once the Ministry of Sports, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, write to assure that sports arenas were ready for action.

"We look forward to the day when sports will be back," the President has said.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isaac Chipampe".

ISAAC CHIPAMPE  
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(PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS)  
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