

Flattening the Curve, The Accounting Way

In 2019, life as we know it changed when the first traces of COVID 19 were found. It has been a global turmoil ever since with economies trying to tackle this global pandemic the best way they can. Most countries implemented national lockdowns to help flatten the curve while for others it was business as usual. Just recently, according to France24, India has broken the global record with over 400 000 new cases recorded on the 1st of May and over 3 000 COVID-19 deaths on the same day which might suggest this pandemic might be with us for some time.

The emphasis has been on the essential services and what they have been doing to help tackle this pandemic. While we acknowledge the efforts made by these life-time heroes on a daily basis, the question should also come back to us; have we really done our part as the Accounting profession to flatten the curve? As a third wave that has been threatening lately, with new cases on the rise in Zimbabwe. We can't relax!

So what can we do as accountants to fight this pandemic?

Do your part, Get the Job!

The Zimbabwean government has been focusing on the 'Let's Go Zero' campaign where the focus is on getting the population vaccinated against COVID-19. In the same spirits, the CAA team got vaccinated as a group at the Parirenyatwa vaccination center as a move to flatten the curve and avoid a third wave. While this was on a voluntary basis (as it should be) the management took it upon themselves to research and teach on the COVID-19 vaccination so that staff would be on a more informed position to decide. While a lot of negativity and resistance that might be present in some individuals regarding the vaccine, it is very important as Accountants to educate and encourage each other to support this global initiative to fight the pandemic.

Debit the receiver, Credit the giver!

While the government has tried to identify and assist the most vulnerable groups that have been affected by the pandemic, they are also need our help. The lockdown has been tough on everyone, but it has been tougher on others, greatly increasing the inequality gaps within the country. But how can we help?

- Let's engage and partner with the government in such humanitarian acts of giving especially to those less privileged groups and contributing funds towards the fight of COVID -19.
- We can partner with government to ensure funds reach intended users by designing internal control systems necessary to manage these resources (yes at no cost) as there has been such resistance from donors due to fear that funding might be diverted.
- Provision of pro-bono audit services to institutions managing the COVID-19 pandemic especially government hospitals and other emergency funds like the Global Financing Facility.

Work from Home

Although the President of Zimbabwe loosened the lock-down restriction in February 2021 to allow free movement of non-essential workers to work, most of the big firms have maintained working from home and only travel to the office on a need basis. According to Convergence Coaching's December 2020 article, 81% of firms anticipate a moderate to significant increase in remote work post the pandemic. While this may seem like a small stride, it helps immensely in the fight to flatten the curve as WHO suggests that less movement limits the spread on the virus.

There you have it folks, we have a lot that we can do in support of the flatten the curve initiative. As a professional body, this is the time to act!

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