It is sad at what is happening at the Beitbridge boarder where our African brothers and sisters are trying to get home for Christmas. Many have not been home since the lockdown and some were saving for many months or years. We are quick to judge why are they here in the first place, but at the end of the day we are all one. Our circumstances to cross any border are not the same, some seek asylum, some for financial wellbeing as they seek greener pastures. Now it is trying times for all, as the COVID-19 pandemic is upon us.

People have been stuck for a week as long queues of traffic keeps on piling up. The reason is people did not adhere to the COVID-19 regulations, that is making sure that all the passengers are adequately tested and on the transport the PEP’s are present. The traffic is stretching by the minute as the traffic officers are unable to cope as they are under resourced. Across two lanes it has now stretched to more 15 kilometers. The border is used by our African brothers and sisters from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and other southern African Countries.

One person a woman has died as the weather is scorching with no adequate facilities to relieve themselves, and no water to hydrate. And the fact that the border between Zimbabwe and South Africa does not operate between 10pm and 4am does little to make matters worse. Now people are going to be spending their Christmas day on a border.

Who is to blame? People should have been aware of the COVID-19 regulations. The transport industry should have a plan in place for screening their passengers and personnel. And it is not that easy, people lost jobs and are broke in this time. It costs money to go home, get tested and having to spend money on their loved ones and, also have money to come back.

My Africans what is the solution? Should you just stay here? Risk going home. What if there are no jobs here in South Africa what is the best option