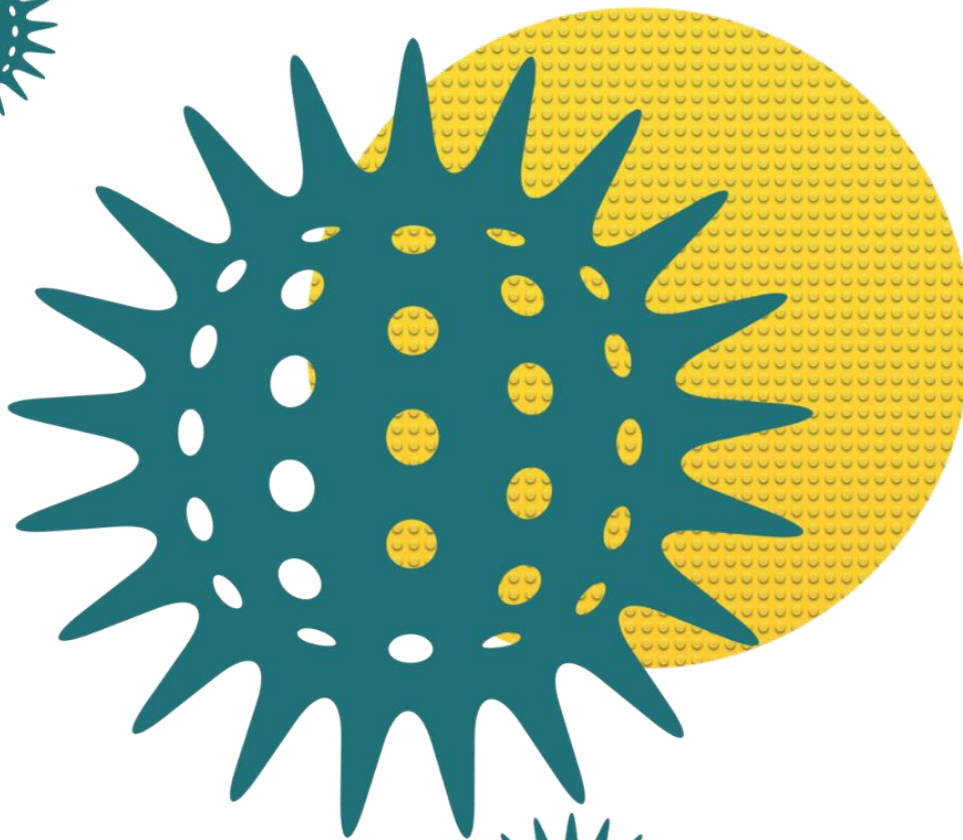


# MAPUTIATOTA'S CORONA-STUCK NANO EBOOK 1



**PRACTICAL TIPS ON WHAT  
TO DO WHILST STUCK AT  
HOME.**

Live productively during the  
Corona Virus lockdown!

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## Introduction

Hello and welcome to my **first** book in a 14 part nano-ebook series. I'm Maputiatota\*, and I live in this amazing country, Zimbabwe. Very little content is available about how to live **productively** during the Corona Virus lockdown, and I am on a mission to leave you better than you were when the lockdown began.

Excited? Well so am I! I hope you will enjoy this short read!

## **What exactly is the Corona Virus?**

I'm no doctor, so let's have a look at an extract from the [World Health Organization's website](#):

*Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.*

*The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes and how it spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by washing your hands or using an alcohol based rub frequently and not touching your face.*

*The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes, so it's important that you also practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).*

*At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.*

During this pandemic (global outbreak of a disease), very many sources of news pop up. Some sources give good and reliable information, and some are quite misleading.

So today's productive lesson is learning how to distinguish fake news from real news.

## **How to spot fake news and messages on social media platforms, and on the internet**

### *Step 1*

The first and most important part is to identify who created the news. Ask yourself "Who created this article?, Do I know this person? What is he/she all about?"

If a link has been shared, check for the ending of the website's URL: .gov, .edu, .mil, and .org are more credible than websites that end in .com, .net, and many others.

### *Step 2*

Ask yourself "What is the message being communicated?" Try to get the main points being brought out by the message. Think about them and see if they are true. Check the grammar and spellings in the message. Most fake material

is written using bad English with bad grammar, and they leave out full stops. If it is a memo, then if it has no signature and stamp with a date, then it is probably fake.

### Step 3

Is there a very scary picture which makes the story frighteningly convincing? Well if that is present, then the story is probably fake. The whole point of creating news is to inform people, and not to scare them. If there are scary pictures then it is probably from an individual who has his own agenda.

### Step 4

Is there money being offered if you click a link? If there is then don't even click on the link. It is fake. **Delete the message immediately!**

In addition, if there is news about people throwing money away then don't even read it! If people were really throwing money away, then you wouldn't know about it. Some selfish person would have collected it for himself and wouldn't have shared it with you!

### Step 5

Have a look at other credible sources that are reporting the same story. Stories from reputable organizations such as WHO, and the Ministry of Health are most likely to contain information that is useful...and for the last step

### *CHECK THE DATE.*

If the news is old, then the information is probably outdated. Just ignore it and look for the most recent information.

Congratulations! You now know how to tell the difference between fake and real news!

Here are a few Whatsapp bots you can use to get valid information:

+41798931892 World Health Organization Just say **Hi** to that number.

+263714734593 MoHCC, ZW COVID-19 information hub. Just type **Hi**

+263717684274 Techzim Market. Type one of the following: **Corona**, or **Hutano**, or **Impilo** to that number.

+27600123456 National Department of Health, SA. Just type **Hie**

I chose bots from different countries to allow you to have access to a wide variety of information.

## **Conclusion**

This brings us to the end of this nano ebook  
Tomorrow we'll talk about games and fun activities to do during this lock down period.

I hope you enjoyed it. For more material, feel free to head over to my blog  
<https://maputiatotablog.wordpress.com>

I'm available on Instagram @ maputiatota, and on Twitter @ maputiatota  
Don't be shy to say hi!