

COVID-19 & VACCINES

Your weekly snapshot of COVID-19 social media discussions (in Zimbabwe)

TOP ISSUES: JUNE 8 - JUNE 14, 2022

- A Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Official reports that irregularities in the use of COVID-19 funds was as a result of being understaffed and overwhelmed.
- COVID-19 cases increase in Bulawayo.
- Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) demands that government accounts for missing millions meant for COVID-19 beneficiaries.

TOP TRENDING POST

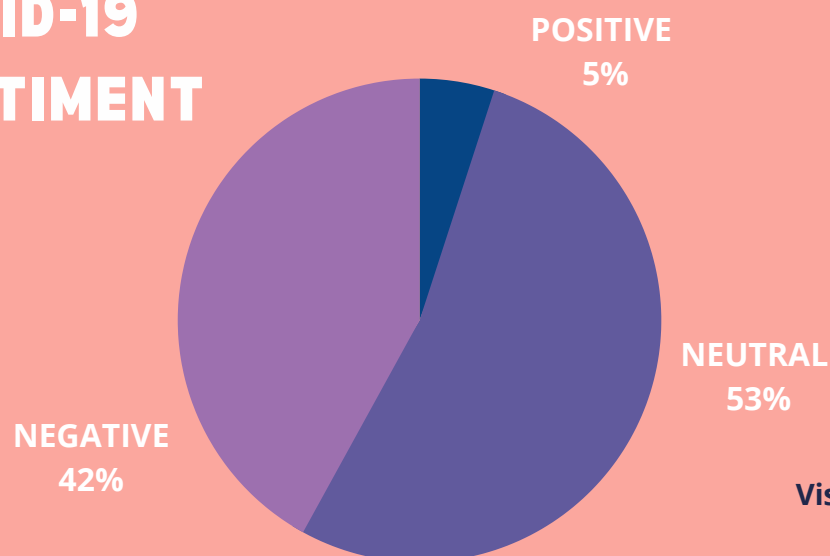
The post with the highest reach this week read:

"AIDS was better than COVID". Does it mean people are glorifying AIDS? It simply means people are weighing impacts of the 2 diseases. Who said Smith was a saint? - Twitter.

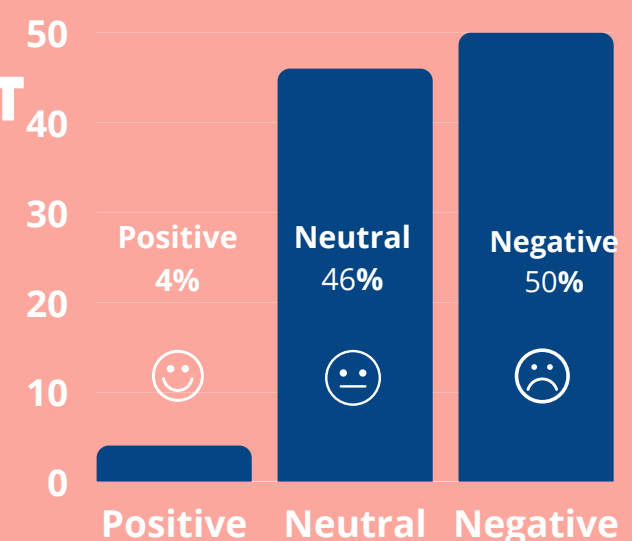
- **29 Comments**
- **165 Retweets**
- **536 Likes**



COVID-19 SENTIMENT



VACCINE SENTIMENT



Visualization by Rooted in Trust:
Data from Talkwalker

TOP STORY

COVID-19 cases spike in schools.



RUMOR CHECK

“After COVID vaccination, boil coke and bi-carbonate of soda so as to reduce the effectiveness of the vaccine because after 3 years vaccinated people will die.” – Community

FACTS

According to Trust Nyirenda, a lecturer and research scientist at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST)'s Faculty of Medicine, "the intake of boiled coke and bicarbonate of soda does not dilute the COVID-19 vaccine but may cause health hazards due to excess intake and interaction of the two substances in the body.

- World Health Organization (WHO) notes that strict precautions are in place to help ensure the safety of all COVID-19 vaccines. Before receiving validation from WHO and national regulatory agencies for emergency use, COVID-19 vaccines must undergo rigorous testing in clinical trials to prove that they meet internationally agreed benchmarks for safety and efficacy.
- Suggestions that people who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 will die after 2 or 3 years have been dismissed as false.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO JOURNALISTS

- Producing podcasts in collaboration with health experts highlighting the danger of using homemade concoctions as agents of minimising the effectiveness of the vaccines.
- Publishing stories explaining vaccination approval process so people may fully understand rigorous processes undertaken to ensure vaccine efficacy and safety in order to develop trust in vaccines.

Rooted in Trust is collecting, analysing and responding to rumours in 10 countries with generous support from USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian (BHA). We focus on equipping journalists and humanitarian communicators with the tools they need, in the languages they prefer, to combat rumours and misinformation in the COVID-19 crisis. For more information on the project, visit: [here](#)



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