



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### WEEKLY TRAVEL ADVISORY ON EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE IN UGANDA

**Kampala, 25 July 2019:—** On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Ministry of Health marked the end of 42 days since the death of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) patient which occurred in Kasese district. This is the period recommended by WHO to monitor the situation for any EVD cases that may arise out of the contacts with the confirmed case. If no cases are detected within that time, the event or outbreak is deemed contained in the outbreak area.

There are No confirmed cases of Ebola in Kasese district or in any other part of the country. However, the outbreak continues to escalate in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with which Uganda shares a long and porous border. This therefore means Uganda is still under EVD threat and the Ministry of Health remains on high alert for any eventualities.

According to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, movements of people from one place to another within the country and between countries are not restricted during disease outbreaks. Therefore, the Ministry of Health reiterates that Uganda is safe and all national and international travelers are free to travel to and within the country. All places of tourist attraction including national parks in Western Uganda are safe, open and secure for both local and international tourists.

The Ministry of Health with support from partners continues to implement the following measures to detect any possible importation of EVD into the country:

1. All travelers from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are being screened at the Health desk at Entebbe International Airport and at border entry points in high-risk districts for signs and symptoms of EVD. At the airport, the screening targets all passengers who have had a history of travel of less than 21 days to the DRC, while at border entry points all travelers are screened.
2. At the Entebbe International Airport, passengers are required to complete a screening form. An information leaflet about Ebola and contact numbers of surveillance officers are given to all non-symptomatic passengers. A private Medical Centre in the airport has been equipped to provide counselling and clinical screening of all suspects. A standby ambulance with appropriate protective gear has been provided by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and is available full time.
3. Active community and health facility- based surveillance is ongoing throughout the country with emphasis on the high-risk districts including Arua and Kasese.



All travelers are requested to cooperate with the Immigration, Health and Security officials to ensure effective screening at all entry points.

Uganda has a good track-record in managing Ebola and in all previous outbreaks the disease was contained within the outbreak areas.

We appeal to the general public and international travelers to Uganda to always seek information on Ebola from official government or WHO sources to avoid misinformation. Unfounded rumors circulated on unofficial social media platforms should be ignored.

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