

Nairobi in crackdown to contain cholera outbreak

BY COLLINS OMULO
Monitor correspondent

KENYA. The Nairobi County government has started a crackdown on eateries without valid licences and unregistered water vendors, amid a cholera outbreak.

Speaking to the *Nation* on Sunday, Dr Bernard Muia, the county's Health executive, said he had directed public health officers to rein in eating joints that do not have valid food handling certificates, in an effort to contain the spread of the disease.

"I have instructed public health of-

ficers to ensure that eateries without licences and are being operated without even a toilet be given 24 hours to conform to the provisions of the Health Act or risk being closed down, and owners arrested and arraigned in court," Dr Muia said.

Will be banned

Dr Muia also said that water bowsers not registered with the county or the Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company will be banned.

Additionally, public health officers will randomly inspect water supplied to the residents to determine

whether it is fit for consumption.

"Our health officers are now going round the city looking at the water tankers to validate whether they are registered and also to know the status of such water being supplied," he said.

Since May, there have been numerous cholera cases, with the most recent involving Treasury Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich.

A trade event

Mr Rotich, his Trade counterpart Adan Mohammed and Trade Principal Secretary Chris Kiptoo and

several staff from the Trade and the Treasury ministries were treated for cholera-related symptoms on Friday.

That was after they ate food served during a trade event at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre.

The county is also working with restaurants to ensure that their foods are healthy.

More importantly, the administration has reinvigorated disease surveillance and is sensitising residents about healthy behaviours such as drinking boiled water and hand washing, among others.