

Cholera hits Bulambuli

BY YAHUDU KITUNZI
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

BULAMBULI. A cholera outbreak has been declared in Bulambuli District after the district health department registered four suspected cases.

The District Health Officer, Dr Muhammadi Mulongo, said the first suspected case was reported in Muyembe Sub-county.

"Let me take this opportunity to inform the local community that there is a cholera outbreak in our district. And so far, four cases have been detected from Muyembe sub-county," said Dr Mulongo.

The district health office has set up one treatment centre at Muyembe Health centre IV. He said they have notified the health ministry and the World Health Organisation about the outbreak.

"We have set up a team of health officers to sensitise the local community on hygiene and sanitation," he said.

WHAT IS CHOLERA?

Cholera is an infectious disease that causes severe watery diarrhoea, which can lead to dehydration and even death if untreated in just a matter of hours.

He, however, said about 1,000 people in the district were given some treatment in order to prevent the spread of the epidemic.

Dr Mulongo said they have not registered any death.

Meanwhile, health authorities in the district have embarked on a mass sensitisation against defecating in running rivers, bathing in rivers, open wells and other sources of drinking water.

"We are in full control to make sure the epidemic does not spread to other parts of the district. We are doing a lot of surveillance," he said.

The most affected sub-counties include Bukalu, Nambogo,

Muyembe, Bulegeni Town Council, Bulambuli Town Council and Bukhihonge.

According to information from the district health department, the latrine coverage in the district stands at 69 per cent while safe water coverage stands at 48 per cent. Bulambuli now joins the districts of Busia, Mbale and Sironko that have confirmed cases of the deadly disease.

In Mbale District, 16 sub counties are affected. They have registered about 150 cases of cholera, with eight victims succumbing to death. In Sironko District, six sub counties are affected. They have also registered about 80 cases with seven people dead in a period of two weeks.

Mr Moses Wambedde, a resident blamed the cholera outbreak in the district on lack of safe water.

"Most people take contaminated water. We don't have any good source of drinking water," said Mr Wambedde.