Martyrs Day celebrations postponed indefinitely

By Vision Reporter

This year's Martyrs Day celebrations that had been slated for June 3, have been postponed.

The postponement was announced by President Yoweri Museveni in a statement posted on his X handle yesterday.

According to the President, the decision was taken to prevent the spread of Ebola after two cases were reported in Kampala.

"Fellow Ugandans, especially the Bazzukulu, greetings. After consultations with the national epidemic response task force and religious leaders, we have decided to postpone the Martyrs' Day to a later date, which will be communicated," the President's statement read.

According to the President, Uganda receives thousands of pilgrims annually from Eastern Congo, which is currently experiencing an Ebola outbreak.

"To safeguard everyone's lives, it is essential that this important event be postponed. I encourage those who had begun their journey to return home, continue observing the precautionary measures, report anyone who is sick, and encourage those who are ill to seek medical care," he stated.

The President's message comes at a time when the Health Ministry said at least 103 contacts linked to the confirmed cases have so far been identified and measures are in place to place them under quarantine and daily monitoring for 21 days. A ministry official explained that surveillance teams are retracing the movements of the infected individuals to establish all possible exposure points and prevent further spread.

The escalating outbreak has now triggered global concern after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the Ebola situation in Uganda and DRC, a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the second-highest level of global health alert under international regulations.

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