

Tororo imposes quarantine over outbreak of swine fever

TORORO

By Faustine Odeke

Tororo district authorities have imposed a quarantine on the movement of pigs and suspended the approval of all piggery projects, following a reported outbreak of African swine fever in the district.

The acting district veterinary officer, Dr Boniface Obbo, in a circular to lower local governments, directed the halt approving

any piggery projects under any government plan until the disease is contained.

Obbo's letter is in response to reported cases where a number of farmers have lost their pigs in the district.

The assistant veterinary officer in charge of Malaba town council, Charles Patrick Omam, said they have been forced to burn several carcasses of pigs.

He advised the farmers to desist from consuming the pork from dead

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Charles Patrick Omam, the assistant veterinary officer in charge of Malaba town council, advised the farmers to desist from consuming the pork from dead pigs, saying it is likely to affect their health.

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He said some of the farmers

who had been supported by the Government through projects under the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and Youth Livelihood projects have lost their pigs.

He said the rate at which the disease is affecting the pigs is high to such an extent that the price of pork has dropped from sh10,000 to sh8,000 in urban centres, while in rural areas, a kilogramme now costs sh5,000.

Omam disclosed that they started

sensitising farmers to confine their pigs and suspend the buying of pork. They also restricted them from procuring pigs from unknown sources.

He said they are trying to quantify the mortality rates and the results can be used to come up with actions.

African swine fever is a viral disease which does not have a cure. Affected animals have high fever, diarrhoea, general body weakness and always vomit.