



Launch. Tooro King Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV gives a mosquito net to a mother and child at the launch of the anti-malaria campaign at Boma Playground in Fort Portal Town at the weekend. PHOTO BY SCOVIA ATUHAIRE

Kabarole launches campaign against malaria

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KABAROLE. Government has launched a campaign against malaria in Kabarole District ahead of World Malaria Day that will be commemorated on Tuesday.

While launching the campaign last Saturday at Booma Playground in Fort Portal Town, the King of Tooro, Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, urged residents to join hands in fighting malaria.

"I urge you to embrace the campaign by sleeping under mosquito nets, keeping hygiene at household level by cutting bushes near your homes and avoiding stagnant water and testing for malaria," King Oyo

said. The National programme manager, Malaria Control Programme in the Ministry of Health, Dr Jimmy Opigo, said: "We need to defeat malaria by taking action at household level."

According to Dr Opigo, the campaign is aimed at raising awareness against malaria and requested King Oyo to be an ambassador in fighting malaria.

He said malaria prevalence in Kabarole District stands at 40 per cent and 10 per cent of residents die of malaria every year in the district.

Prevalence

The Kabarole District health officer, Mr Richard Mugahi, said malaria prevalence in areas near forests and

mountains is at 50 per cent.

Mr Mugahi said 20 per cent of people who are admitted to hospitals have severe malaria.

"As a district we encourage pregnant women to sleep under treated mosquito nets and to always test for malaria to avoid miscarriages and giving to birth to children who are underweight," Mr Mugahi said.

He urged the public to sleep under treated mosquito nets, clear bushes around their homes, avoid stagnant water and close windows early.

"Government is distributing mosquito nets to families across the country. I encourage you not to misuse them," Mr Mugahi said, adding that Kabarole's vision is to end malaria by 2020.