

Uganda declared Marburg free

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KAMPALA, Ministry of Health on Friday declared Uganda free from the deadly Marburg virus after one person died of the disease in October in Kween District.

This declaration comes 42 days after the last case was confirmed which is World Health Organisation requirement practice to declare the area free of the disease after that period.

The State minister of Health for General Duties, Ms Sarah Opendi said several tests had been carried out on people, who were suspected to have had contact with the person, who died of the disease in October. She said since there was no new case registered in the last 42 days, it shows the country is now free of the disease.

"We followed up 311 people and 18 of them had had Marburg-related symptoms from Kween and Kapchorwa districts. Today, it is 42 days, Marburg has been contained and ministry of Health is therefore pleased to officially declare Uganda free from the Marburg viral disease," Ms Opendi said at the Uganda Media Centre.

She explained that the government has spent about Shs3.5b on treating and containing the epidemic in collaboration with development partners.

After the outbreak, Kenya and Uganda formed a committee to coordinate monitoring of cross-border movements of people to stop spreading of the disease.

Shs3.5b

Expenditure. Amount of money government has spent on treating and containing the epidemic.

Ms Opendi said ministry of health held extraordinary cross-border surveillance meetings with World Health Organisation, district health teams and other officials on Thursday in Kapchorwa District to again surveillance data before Uganda was declared free of the deadly virus.

The World Health Organisation country representative, Dr Jack Abdonlie, commended the different organisation for their active role in containing the outbreak.

KEY ISSUES AT HAND

Dead. One person died of the deadly Marburg virus in October in Kween District. The ministry followed up 311 people and 18 of them had had Marburg-related symptoms from Kween and Kapchorwa districts.

Investigation. Ms Sarah Opendi said several tests had been carried out on people, who were suspected to have had contact with the person, who died of the disease in October.

No new case. She said since there was no new case registered in the last 42 days, it shows Uganda is now free of the disease.