

...to get a test to school. Later, she called and said a Good Samaritan had volunteered to accompany her

getting late. The mother was shocked to receive a phone call late

that the kidnappers called the mother and told her they had killed Nalule, but still

that of Nalule.

Ssalongo Bbosa, the chairperson of Kabaawo Zone

Detectives recovered

New cholera cases registered in Kampala

By Ashraf Kasirye

Yesterday, 15 cases of cholera victims were confirmed in Kampala, up from 10 as reported on Monday.

A total of 12 people had been admitted at Naguru Hospital. Seven were discharged, while five were still undergoing treatment.

When Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) joined forces with the health ministry to open up another cholera isolation camp at Mulago Hospital yesterday, three new cholera patients were rushed to the camp in the night.

Naguru Hospital

Dr Emanuel Batiibwe, the director of Naguru Hospital, said he had earlier received information that one child had died while being rushed to the hospital.

"The ones we are still retaining were in critical condition and it's by God's grace they are alive," he said.

He said although they had agreed that another isolation camp be set up at Mulago, Naguru Hospital wouldn't send away patients, adding the

hospital had received some routine supplies of antibiotics and fluids.

"National Medical Stores promised us some additional supplies and we are still waiting for them," he added.

Patients at Mulago Hospital

A source at Mulago casualty ward said the first cholera patient to be admitted at the camp was a wife to one of the doctors, a 25-year-old resident of Mawanda Road UEB Zone.

Another patient is a 34-year-old resident of Kyebando, Nsooba Zone.

"I saw doctors rushing to attend to the man who could barely utter a word. He had soiled himself, yet he neither had a friend nor a relative to take care of him," a bodaboda rider operating near the entrance of the isolation camp said.

One of the doctors at the camp, yesterday evening said nobody had visited the camp to claim relationship to the patient, yet he was still in critical condition and unable to contact any of his relatives.

The third patient was an eight-year-old girl from Kalerwe Kibe Zone, who is recovering.

■ One of the nurses who preferred anonymity said the situation was bad because there were two ordinary medical beds which were not meant for cholera patients.

■ She also singled out lack of protective gear for staff, which could also expose them to cholera.

FACILITY SHORTAGE

"When you visit this isolation camp, you will be received by medics working under poor conditions, but willingly bathing patients, cleaning their clothes, assisting them to visit the toilets on a minute-by-minute basis and sometimes helping them to

eat," one of the nurses who preferred anonymity said the situation was bad because there were two ordinary medical beds which were not meant for cholera patients.

She also singled out lack of protective gear for staff, which could also expose them to cholera.

Causes, symptoms

Cholera is an acute infectious disease characterised by watery stool and vomiting. The disease can kill a person within hours. It is spread through eating and drinking food contaminated with faeces of an infected person.

Other factors responsible for the spread of cholera include poor personal hygiene such as not washing hands after visiting the latrine, using contaminated water, poor sanitation as occurs in open defecation, eating foods or drinks prepared under unhygienic conditions.

Joel Ssematimba, the KCCA-Nakawa division health surveillance officer, said the current heavy rains were likely to cause floods and contamination of water sources

because of poor hygiene and sanitation. This might be a major cause of the cholera outbreak that has also affected other areas such as Hoima where over 40 cases were confirmed in March.

CORRECTIONS

The Christians of Hoima Diocese living in Kampala on Sunday raised sh100 towards building a multi-purpose centre in Gayaza, Wakiso district and not a church as reported on Tuesday this week.

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