

Govt plans mandatory medical tests for visitors

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KAMPALA. Ministry of Health has initiated procurement of high-tech scanners to check all travellers entering Uganda.

Dr Diana Atwine, the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Health, said the equipment will provide early warnings against highly infectious diseases such as Ebola and Marburg.

"We have invited bidders to supply us three thermal scanners that detect one's temperature. They are to be installed at Entebbe Airport and for the first time, all passengers entering the country will be subjected to a test. This will help in detecting passengers with high fever for further medical examination," she explained.

"I am not sure of the budget because we have just started the procurement process," Dr Atwine told *Daily Monitor* in an interview yesterday.

Uganda has on several occasions been hit by Ebola and Marburg epidemics. During such outbreaks, the ministry has been carrying out tests manually.

While addressing an international health conference last week in Kampala, President Museveni blamed people affected with Ebola and Marburg for invading habitats of animals that carry the virus.

In an October 31 ministry of Health notice, the pre-bid meeting scheduled for November 16 with December 4 as the deadline for submission of bids. Evolution process for eligible bidders is expected to be completed by January 19 and the

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Announced. Dr Diana Atwine

winner will sign a contract by February 18, 2018.

Asked about other border crossing points and why not handle the internal risks first, Dr Atwine said it is a gradual process.

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In a related development, the ministry is also procuring an assortment of laboratory equipment for various hospitals and health centres. They include laboratory ovens, incubator, water distiller, refrigerators, microscopes, freezer and single channel adjustable among others.

Firms bidding are required to have a bid security of Shs15 million.