

Bilharzia hits Mayuge district

MAYUGE

By Betty Angatai

The Mayuge chief administrative officer, Joyce Namboozo, has decried the increasing rates of cases of bilharzia among the fishing communities in Mayuge district.

She said many adults and children are affected by the disease, especially those in the fishing communities of Malongo sub-county and on Jaguzi Islands.

Bilharzia is caused by parasitic flatworms called schistosomes.

The parasites are carried by freshwater snails, and humans can become infected after direct contact with contaminated water in ponds, lakes among others.

While addressing journalists at Mayuge district headquarters, Namboozo asked the World Health Organisation (WHO) to come up with a bilharzia dosage for children below five (5) years.

The Mayuge district health surveillance focal person, Edward Nabuyo, confirmed the outbreak of the disease in Bukoma and Bubinge villages in Malongo sub-county.

Namboozo said a number of school-going children are not taking the drugs due to lack of food. She noted that bilharzia drugs should only be swallowed after one has eaten.

She said most residents drink contaminated water from the lake.

Namboozo warned them against standing, bathing, swimming in lakes and swamps. She advised them to stop defecating in lakes and encouraged them to use pit latrines.