

Foot and mouth disease hits Tororo district

TORORO

By Faustine Odeke

Tororo district veterinary officials have imposed a quarantine on the movement and slaughter of cattle in Iyolwa sub-county following an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

The acting district veterinary officer, Dr Boniface Obbo, said a spot visit to six farmers with 48 cattle, revealed that 24 of them had been attacked by the disease.

"I am, therefore, imposing a quarantine on the whole of Iyolwa sub-county. That means no movement or slaughter of animals is allowed. There should also be no movement of all animals' products and by-products. These include milk meat, ghee, hides and skins, as well as urine, horns and hooves," Obbo said in a statement issued on Monday.

Obbo called on the general public and all stakeholders to abide by the restriction in order to contain the spread of the disease. He said the quarantine targets cattle, goats, sheep and pigs.

Lawrence Damba, one of the affected farmers, said six of his eight cattle had been attacked by the disease.

Damba said the disease is likely to lead to a food shortage since the oxen that they have been using to plough the gardens are all sick.

He appealed to the Government to come to their rescue because their animals are dying as a result of the disease.