

Experts paint grim picture in case of Ebola outbreak

By MASEMBE TAMBWE

A MYRIAD of challenges await Tanzanians should an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus occur in the country for a near complete change of culture and custom is needed to defeat it's spread.

Experts told journalists during a sensitisation workshop in Dar es Salaam yesterday that should the virus enter the country, a complete change of life is required to control its spread.

"Before we start thinking of the bigger picture and how the government has prepared itself, we should be asking ourselves how are we prepared. How many times do we wash our hands, do we wash them properly, how many door handles do we touch in a day, these are the simple questions," said Mr Elibariki Mwakapeje.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans with outbreaks that have a case fatality rate of up to 90 per cent.

The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission with infection resulting from direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected people and indirect contact with environments contaminated with such fluids.

Continues on Page 3

