

THE government has set aside 1.8bn/- as part of its precautionary measures against the possible outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus which has spread in a number of West African countries.

However, there are no reported cases of the disease in any East or Central African countries of late.

Health and Social Welfare minister Dr Seif Rashid told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday that since the outbreak is spreading quickly,

the World Health Organisation (WHO) has directed all countries to prepare to fight it.

“We have set aside 1.8bn/- in response to WHO’s call, the amount will be spent to prepare special wards for Ebola patients, purchasing protective gear for health personnel and conduct screening at entry points including airports,” he said.

The minister said since August 5, this year, departing and arriving passengers at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) have been filling-in special forms aimed to identify possible carriers of the virus.

He further said that the government is expected to receive thermo scanners which are used to identify Ebola patients at the airports and any entry points.

Meanwhile, he said the

ministry has already bought 12,750 protective gear for health personnel.

He said Dar es Salaam city has two centres for Ebola patients - Muhimbili National Hospital and Temeke Isolation Unit.

Highlighting the symptoms of Ebola, the minister said they include high fever, muscle pains, intense weakness, headache followed by vomiting, diarrhea, skin rashes and lung or kidney failure.

He said the symptoms can start manifesting between two and 21 days from the day one catches the virus.

“I want to assure the public that the government is working day and night to ensure that the disease does not enter the country. Chances are the disease will not reach the country but if it does, health facilities should be put in place to fight it out,” he

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