

# Malawi keen on curbing elephantiasis

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THE Preliminary results of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) prevalence assessment currently underway has revealed that Malawi is on a right track of completely eliminating elephantiasis among people, Ministry of Health (MoH) has said.

The MoH Deputy spokesperson Adrian Chikumbe has since attributed the development to the successful mass drug administration campaigns which the ministry has been conducting in the recent past few years.

"The LF prevalence assessment survey this year indicates that Malawi is on a good course to completely eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis very soon and as ministry of health we are very excited because this is so due to regular MDA we have been conducting in recent years," explained Chikumbe

Chikumbe disclosed this to Malawi News Agency (Mana) ahead of this year's Mass Drug Administration (MDA) against LF also crudely known as elephantiasis which the ministry intends to start on August 1.

He said the campaign which will be done in all the districts targets everyone including those above five years.

"Those Under-five children but with a height of over 90 centimeteres may also be included and apart from conventional health facilities, schools will also be utilized for the exercise to ensure that no one is left out.

"At the moment, it is starting with dissemination of elephantiasis related messages to the public through various available channels for maximum coverage," he said.

According to the Deputy Publicist, elephantiasis is caused by parasitic worms which are routinely treated by Abendazole and Mectizane thus it is the same drugs that the ministry shall be providing during the campaign including to those with infections.