

Task force formed to prevent Ebola outbreak

By **LAWRENCE
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THE Ministry of Health and Social Welfare in collaboration with other stakeholders have formed a task force which will work on plans and strategies to combat the deadly Ebola virus, in case it erupts in the country.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare spokesperson Mr Nsachris Mwamwaja said the task force includes among others, experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

He said the work plan on Ebola prevention has been there since 2012, when the disease first erupted in Uganda, adding that more strategies are in place to ensure that the disease is contained accordingly in case it erupts.

“The government is full aware of this deadly disease

and since we received the information in March this year from WHO about the eruption of the disease in Guinea, we have taken some preventive measures,” he said.

He added that there was no patient diagnosed with the disease in the country, and also the government has already distributed, among other things, material and equipment to all Regional Medical Officers (RMOs) to ensure effective detection and response.

“We have also set aside emergency isolation wards for suspected cases in both regional and referral hospitals across the country,” he noted, adding that there have been efforts to screen foreigners at all border entries, including land, sea and airports.

He therefore assured the public not to worry as the government is taking all the necessary measures to ensure their safety, however urging every citizen to take precaution.



DR Seif Rashid Health and Social Welfare Minister

Ebola has spread in West Africa, especially in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Recent reports say that suspected 1,323 cases with 729 deaths have so far been reported, with 909 cases and 485 deaths confirmed to be Ebola.

To contract Ebola, health experts say, one has to come into direct contact with a sick

patient's bodily fluids like saliva, excrement or blood.

Ebola's symptoms start out like those of many diseases, including common flu, with headaches, fever, nausea, diarrhoea but progress to abdominal pain and bleeding.

The symptoms of the pandemic include a sudden rise in body temperature, unexplained fatigue, and bouts of headache, muscle pain and sore throat.

The symptoms are followed almost immediately by incessant vomiting, skin rashes, loose bowels, kidney malfunction and liver failure.

Normally symptoms manifest in two to 21 days after a victim contacts the virus. Victims contact the disease after inadvertently touching the blood or other body discharges of an Ebola patient or animal.

Because there is no cure, patients are only treated for blood and water loss, however most people suffering from it die.