

TELEPHONE: 363 2574
FAX: 391 0647
TELEGRAMS: RABONGAKA
TELEX: 2818 CARE BD



Republic of Botswana

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS
PRIVATE BAG 0038
GABORONE

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TO: All Media Houses

PRESS RELEASE

EBOLA/VIRAL HEAMORRAGIC FEVER OUTBREAK IN DRC

The public is notified that Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has declared a new EBOLA Virus Disease Outbreak following confirmation of 17 Ebola related deaths and 21 suspected cases on 8th May 2018. The current Ebola Epidemic is reported from North-East part of the country in Bikoro, Equateur province on the shore of Lake Tumba.

Ebola is a highly contagious and virulent disease that currently has no cure. It can be transmitted via human contact with the body fluids of an infected person and is fatal.

Symptoms of Ebola virus disease include: Fever of acute onset (>37.50C) with unexplained bleeding tendencies from nose (Epitasis), gums, vagina, skin or eyes, bloody stools, vomiting and coughing blood, diarrhea, deterioration of vision or decreased consciousness.

Ministry of Health and Wellness advises the public to avoid or postpone travel to DRC, especially affected provinces in the DRC. Travellers are further advised to take all the necessary precautions.

The Ministry of Health and Wellness will continue to monitor the situation at all levels and will update the public as the epidemic unfolds.

For further information on Ebola prevention please visit the nearest health facility or call the Ministry of Health and Wellness Toll Free number 0800 600 740.

Dr Khumo Seipone
Director, Health Services

Vision: A Healthy Nation by 2023.

Values: Botho, Equity, Timeliness, Customer Focus, Teamwork, Accountability

