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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EBOLA/VIRAL HEAMORRAGIC FEVER OUTBREAK ALERT**

Following the declaration of the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)' by the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Ministry of Health and Wellness wishes to inform the public that:

- a. Ebola is a highly contagious viral disease that currently has no cure.
- b. It can be transmitted through human contact with body fluids of a person infected with the virus. The disease is highly fatal.
- c. The public should familiarize themselves with the signs and symptoms of Ebola infection. These include: fever of acute onset (>37.50C) with unexplained bleeding tendencies from nose (Epitasis), gums, vagina, skin or eyes, bloody stools, vomiting and coughing of blood (haemoptysis), diarrhoea, deterioration of vision or decreased consciousness.
- d. Travellers to and from affected areas should take Maximum precautions.
- e. The Ministry of Health and Wellness has intensified its Public Health Emergency Preparedness.

The Ebola Virus Disease outbreak is reported in the eastern part of the DRC including North Kivu Province. The risk of Ebola spread in the DRC and the regional levels remains very high, but still low at global level. However, the Ministry will continue to monitor the situation in the DRC and the region in close consultation with the WHO Country office and will keep the public updated periodically.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr. Morrison Sinvula', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Morrison Sinvula  
For/Permanent Secretary