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UPDATE ON DRC TRADER WHO VISITED UGANDA, LATER DIED OF EBOLA IN DRC

Kampala, 17 July 2019 –The Ministry of Health and World Health Organization (WHO) are identifying contacts of a person from the Democratic Republic of Congo who visited Uganda to trade in fish last week before returning to DRC, where she later died of Ebola. At present there is no confirmed Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) case in Kasese District or any other part of Uganda.

Ministry of Health and WHO surveillance teams established that on Thursday 11th July 2019, a trader with symptoms consistent with Ebola had been in Uganda to buy fish at Mpondwe market. She was a well-known and regular trader at the market. The surveillance teams established that she had four episodes of vomiting on the day she was in the country.

On Friday 12th July 2019, she travelled back to Beni and was admitted in the Beni Ebola Treatment Unit (ETU) on Saturday 13th July 2019. She died on Monday 15th July, 2019 in the ETU after testing positive for Ebola. She did not use the formal border entry point where she would have passed through temperature screening and provided with necessary care by the health workers.

The Ministry of Health response team is identifying and following up all people who came into contact with the trader with the collaboration of colleagues in DRC. As part of the response activities, the Ministry with support from WHO, will immediately vaccinate all people who came into contact with the deceased trader in order to control possible spread of the disease in the country. The Ministry has also intensified surveillance and community engagement activities throughout the district.

Ministry of Health and WHO appeal to all Ugandans to remain vigilant and alert. Avoid handshaking, hugging, mass gatherings and observe infection, prevention and control practices such as washing hands with soap and clean water at all times both at health facilities and communities.

We affirm that all places of economic and social interaction in Uganda such as national parks and tourist sites are open and accessible to the public. People are free to visit any place of interest in Uganda.

We appeal to the general public and international travelers to Uganda to always seek information on Ebola from official government or WHO sources to avoid misinformation. Unfounded rumors circulated on unofficial social media platforms should be ignored.





THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



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