



**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE**

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE EBOLA OUTBREAK

The Ministry of Health declared an outbreak of the Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in Kibaale District on Saturday 28th July 2012 after confirmatory results that the strange disease that had killed a number of people in the district was the Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever, Sudan strain.

We have been informed by the health experts that the control measures have been undertaken to arrest the situation including restricting movement of people in the affected areas until proper diagnosis is undertaken.

We have noted with concern the fears expressed by some travelers arising from the news of this outbreak. In this regard, we would like to assure all travelers that the Ministry of Health has taken all the necessary measures to control the situation and the World Health Organization has not recommended a travel ban on Uganda. In the same vein, the Tourism Ministry has instructed all its agencies, specifically the

Uganda Tourism Board responsible for the marketing function and the Uganda Wildlife Authority responsible for the conservation and management of the protected areas to avail the latest information to our visitors regarding the status of this outbreak.

The Ministry, through the inter-ministerial committee that was formed to respond to this outbreak has instituted a monitoring mechanism to collect and disseminate all useful information in this regard and at this point I would like to re assure all visitors both domestic and international, that the key tourist designated spots, the national parks are safe and no reported case of Ebola has been identified.

It is also important to clarify, that Kibaale National Park, the world renowned primate park is not in the Ebola affected Kibaale district. Whereas the two locations are similarly named, the Kibaale National Park is over 90 km from Kibaale District. This park and indeed all tourist designated areas are open and safe for tourists.

We as a Tourism Ministry have taken additional precautions; the Uganda Wildlife Authority to working closely with the ecological committee in the Ministry of Health to conduct a health checks on our primates in the parks. We have also instituted more precautions by upgrading the visitor and guide protocols to assure the safety of our visitors.

In regard to information flow, the tour operators and the hotels will receive regular updates as relayed by the Ministry of Health to provide timely information and additional assurance to our visitors.

Uganda remains the destination of choice for 2012 and this being our golden jubilee, we encourage and welcome the world to visit Uganda and urge fellow Ugandans to travel and enjoy the Pearl of Africa.

We reiterate governments commitment to support the Health Ministry and all affected communities in fighting this outbreak and call upon all the people to closely follow the news updates regarding the progress.