



MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON CHOLERA

BY

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

HON. DR. JOSEPH KASONDE, M.P.

13<sup>th</sup> ARIL 2016

The Total cumulative <sup>number of</sup> cholera cases for the country as at 10<sup>th</sup> April ~~was~~ **is** 822.

Mr. Speaker, for Lusaka, the affected areas are Bauleni, Mtendere, George, John Liang, Old Kanyama and Chawama. *Townships*

### **Measures Taken (Response):**

Since the current outbreak of cholera my ministry together with partners has continued to implement various measures in surveillance, prevention, and case management in all the affected areas.

In terms of **surveillance** the following measures have been put in place:

- (i) Rapid response teams have been reactivated in all districts;
- (ii) All health institutions in the country have been put on alert and requested to re-enforce preventive measures and reactivate Epidemic Preparedness Committees;
- (iii) The National Epidemic Preparedness Committee <sup>which</sup> ~~usually meets monthly~~ <sup>is now meeting</sup> ~~is now meeting~~ weekly to monitor the situation and provide guidance;
- (iv) Contacts of all cholera cases are being followed up by the health workers;
- (v) Teams have <sup>continued</sup> ~~been mobilized~~ to go in the communities to look for suspected cases of cholera;
- (vi) Outbreak investigations are being done to find out the source of the infection;
- (vii) Communities have been sensitized through radio, television and provision of health education materials;
- (viii) Water samples are being collected for examination;

- (vi) The Ministry of Local Government and Housing announced the suspension of street vending specifically dealing in cooked foods until the outbreak is over

**Long term measures (Immunisation):**

**Mr. Speaker**, in an effort to control cholera in endemic areas, WHO has recommended a number of control strategies which Zambia has adopted. Global efforts to control resurgence of cholera worldwide are now entering a new phase following the development of safe and effective Oral Cholera Vaccines (OCV). My Ministry, in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has procured the Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV).

**Mr. Speaker**, on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2016, the Oral Cholera Vaccination campaign was launched in selected high risk areas of Lusaka. This campaign is targeted to cover about 573,000 individuals. This is the first ever cholera vaccination in Zambia and this campaign is the largest in terms of coverage so far in the world. *WHO recommendations advise that immunization should be used with other prevention and control strategies and not in isolation.* Cholera vaccinations have been carried out all over the world to prevent and respond to cholera epidemics. MSF has a long experience in implementing large-scale reactive cholera vaccination campaigns among outbreak affected vulnerable populations.

**Who will receive the vaccine?**

**Mr. Speaker**, the cholera vaccination will be administered to all persons older than 1 year of age residing in Bauleni, John Liang, Chibolya, Kanyama West, New Kanyama, Old Kanyama, George,

6. Avoiding ready to eat foods sold on the streets

With these measures I believe that this epidemic will be under control.

**Mr. Speaker I Thank You.**