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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
PRIVATE BAG 0038
GABORONE

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

MHW 1/13/1 II (333)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE ON HEIGHTENED SCREENING AT ALL POINTS OF ENTRY FOLLOWING EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE DRC AND UGANDA

In response to the recent Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreaks reported in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda, the Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public, travelers, and all stakeholders, that Botswana has intensified screening protocols at all Points of Entry (PoEs), including airports and land borders. **This precautionary measure is being implemented to protect the health and safety of all citizens and residents of Botswana, as well as to prevent the importation of the virus.** The intervention will also help ensure early detection and containment of any potential cases.

Key measures that are now in effect include the following:

1. **Health Screening:** All incoming travelers will undergo temperature checks and symptom screening for Ebola-related signs (fever, headache, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and unexplained bleeding) at all PoEs.
2. **Travel History Questionnaires:** Travelers will be required to provide details of their recent travel history, particularly if they have visited the DRC, Uganda, or any other Ebola-affected area within the past 21 days.
3. **Isolation and Referral:** Any traveler presenting symptoms consistent with EVD or reporting high-risk contact will be immediately isolated and transported to designated health facilities for further assessment, testing, and management.
4. **Health Declaration Forms:** All passengers arriving via air travel will be required to complete and submit health declaration forms before disembarkation.

Further, the Ministry strongly advises the public to:

- **Avoid non-essential travel** to Ebola-affected regions (DRC, Uganda).
- **Practice strict hygiene:** Wash hands frequently with soap and clean water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid contact** with individuals showing signs of illness, especially fever, vomiting, or bleeding.
- **Report any suspicious illness** immediately to the nearest health facility or call the Ministry's toll-free hotline: **16649**.

All travelers entering Botswana are required to cooperate fully with health officials at PoEs. Failure to comply may result in denial of entry, quarantine, or legal action as provided for under the Public Health Act.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nyanga', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Christopher Nyanga
For Acting Permanent Secretary

Vision: *A Healthy Nation.*
Values: *Botho, Equity, Timeliness, Customer Focus, Teamwork, Accountability.*

