

Ebola: Martyrs day postponed

BY EMMY DANIEL OJARA

KAMPALA. The Uganda Martyrs Day, an annual religious event which happens every June 3, has been postponed because of an outbreak of Ebola.

"After consultation with the national epidemic response task force and religious leaders, we have decided to postpone the Martyrs Day to a later date, which will be communicated," President Museveni said in a statement yesterday.

"This decision was made because Uganda receives thousands of pilgrims annually from eastern Congo, which is currently experiencing an Ebola outbreak." He added.

Mr Museveni further encouraged those

who had already begun their pilgrimage to return home, and urged the country to continue observing the precautionary measures, report anyone who is sick, and encourage those who are ill to seek medical care.

The World Health Organisation has confirmed an outbreak of Ebola in DR Congo, with 80 deaths reported.

In Uganda, one person, a Congolese, has died from an imported case of the Ebola Bundibugyo virus, according to the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary, Ms Diana Atwine.

Some 70 pilgrims from DR Congo had arrived in Kasese District by Friday morning, but as of Sunday, they were still being held awaiting screening for Ebola.