

CAMPAIGN | UN health agency says Liberia and Guinea had met most of their targets

# Ebola still 'flaming' in Sierra Leone

The worst ever outbreak of the disease has left more than 6,300 dead, nearly all in west Africa

GENEVA, Tuesday

**T**he UN's Ebola czar today hailed widespread progress in the fight against the deadly virus, but warned the outbreak was still surging in western Sierra Leone and northern Guinea.

"We know the outbreak is still flaming strongly in western Sierra Leone and some parts of the interior of Guinea," Dr David Nabarro, the UN coordinator on Ebola, told reporters in Geneva.

He said more foreign health workers and specialists were needed in the areas where the disease was still spreading quickly, as were more treatment units and beds.

"We can't rest," he said, insisting on the need to "maintain global attention and vigilance".

The worst ever Ebola outbreak has left more than 6,300 people dead worldwide, nearly all in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

On Monday, the World Health Organization published new figures showing that the number of cases in Sierra Leone for the first time had



overtaken the number in Liberia, long the hardest-hit country.

Sierra Leone now counts 7,798 cases, 1,742 of them fatal, compared with 7,719 in Liberia, including 3,177 deaths.

In Guinea, where the outbreak started in December last year, 1,412 people have died out of 2,283 cases, according to the latest tally.

WHO set a 60-day goal on October 1 to isolate 70 percent of Ebola patients in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra

Leone and ensure safe burials for 70 per cent of bodies, which are highly infectious.

The UN health agency said last week that Liberia and Guinea had met both targets, while Sierra Leone had met the target on safe burials.

"We're moving towards the treatment target in Sierra Leone," Nabarro said, adding that several hundred more beds were set to become available within the next few weeks. (AFP)

## MORE INFO

### ECOWAS to deploy military personnel

**Action:** Members of the west African regional grouping ECOWAS have agreed to deploy 192 military medical personnel to the worst affected countries over the next six months.

**Cause:** The surge in transmission rates in the west of Sierra Leone, including in the capital Freetown is linked to the fact that the community there had not been as quick to embrace recommended behaviour changes needed to slow the spread of the virus, says UN official.

## Eleven dead in Philippines bus bombing

DAVAO, Philippines, Tuesday

Eleven people including many high school students were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a bus in the southern Philippines today, military spokesmen said.

The bus operated by the Rural Transit company was travelling through the town of Maramag in the strife-torn island of Mindanao when the bomb went off, said regional spokesman Major Christian Uy.

The blast also injured 21 people, he told AFP.

Many of the victims were high school students who had just boarded the bus as it passed a school in the town, said Lieutenant Norman Tagros, spokesman for a local infantry brigade.

The bomb went off almost immediately after the students got on.

Tagros said extortion was being eyed as the likely motive. The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks on the bus company.

Last month a bomb exploded aboard a Rural Transit bus in Mindanao, leaving four people injured. Ten people were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a bus operated by the same company on Mindanao in 2010, which was blamed on an extortion scheme linked to Muslim extremists (AFP)



## UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

### Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi appointed the 7th Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi



**Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi**

The University of Nairobi Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Prof. Peter M.F. Mbithi as the new Vice-Chancellor with effect from January 6, 2015 for a five-year period. Prof. Mbithi will take over from Prof. George Magoha whose final term ends on January 5, 2015. He becomes the seventh Vice-Chancellor, since the inception of the University of Nairobi in 1970.

The appointment follows a rigorous and competitive recruitment process conducted by the University Council in October 2014 which culminated in the formal appointment by the Cabinet Secretary, Education, Science and Technology, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi as per Section 39, of the Universities Act.

Prof. Mbithi, a Professor of Veterinary Surgery, is the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration and Finance, having been appointed to the position in 2005. He has also served as Principal, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Chairman, Department of Clinical Studies.

Prof. Mbithi holds a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Master of Science and PhD from the University of Nairobi and Master of Veterinary Science from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He is a prolific scholar and has published widely in his area of specialization and attended numerous international conferences.

As the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mbithi will be the academic and administrative head of the University and will be responsible to the Council for promoting the academic standards, corporate image and maintaining the efficiency and good order of the University.

Prof. Mbithi's achievements while serving as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of finance and administration include: steering the institution to ISO certification, leading performance contracting, rapid results initiative, strategic planning and the launch of the service charter. Prof. Mbithi has been instrumental in tidying up the general physical appearance of the University and upgrading its infrastructure. He has also been in-charge of managing University finances, assets, staff welfare and industrial relations.

The University Council would like to congratulate Prof. Mbithi on his appointment and wish him well as he prepares to steer the University forward.

**Dr. Idle O. Farah**  
Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council