

Health officials visit Maputo to probe cholera outbreak ^{H 14/12} 90

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A TEAM of the Ministry of Health officials was in Mozambique last week on a fact-finding mission into the spread of cholera.

Headed by the Manicaland health officer, Cde Andrew Ruwende, the team met Mozambican officials and discussed the spread of the disease usually caused by poor sanitary conditions.

Several cases of cholera have been reported in Mozambique recently and about 141 confirmed cases have been identified this year. Of these 21 people died.

The first incident of cholera was reported in the Tete province in February last year and it was believed to have originated from Ma-

lawi. There was another outbreak at Quelimane, Zambezia province, between August and last month. Other cases have been reported in Tete and Maputo provinces.

After a survey conducted by the cholera surveillance team, it was discussed that there were still isolated incidents of cholera in Mozambique.

Cde Ruwende said his team inspected five military camps and several villages. He said the concern on the Zimbabwean side was that the disease could spread into this country as there was constant movement across the two borders.

Most camps have ordinary pit latrines but stringent measures are being taken to prevent flies breeding within the camps. Disposal of

refuse was uncontrolled, and has become a source of flies. Controlled tipping of rubbish has been recommended.

Drainage of water was satisfactory, although mosquitoes were swarming in areas around most camps. The preparation of food in army camps was found to be satisfactory as soldiers got their food straight from the kitchen. There was found to be no trace of cholera along the Beira Corridor although some cases were reported in Beira.

Uncanned food was not being allowed into Zimbabwe from Mozambique and there was thorough inspection of canned food imported for commercial purposes, Cde Ruwende said.