



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

Tel: (+264 61) 208 7111
Fax: (+264 61) 221 733
Email: jamunime@mawf.gov.na

Office of the Permanent Secretary
Luther Street
Private Bag 13184, WINDHOEK

PRESS RELEASE: PHILLIPINES BAN ON NAMIIBIAN BEEF AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

1. It has recently come to our attention, through the media, that the Republic of Philipines has instituted a ban on the importation of Namibia beef and livestock products.
2. Whilst we are cognisant of the fact that the Republic of the Philipines as a member of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) has the right to safeguard its territory from risks posed by the trade in livestock and livestock products, the MAWF had not been officially informed of this decision and finds it necessary to clarify the matter and allay the misperceptions that such reports might raise.
3. On 2 December 2014, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was reported at the Kikya crushpen in the Linyanti constituency of the Zambezi Region.
4. The entire Zambezi Region and the Mukwe constituency of the Kavango East Region are classified as the Foot and Mouth disease infected (endemic) zones owing to the presence of large numbers of free roaming wild African Buffaloes which are known reservoirs of the FMD virus.
5. Where as the disease is controlled through regular vaccination and movement restrictions, regular outbreaks of the disease occur particularly during flood seasons or when translocation of large numbers livestock occurs.
6. Owing to its FMD classification, the Zambezi region has limited marketing opportunities for its livestock and livestock products and only matured, de- glanded and deboned beef is exported under veterinary supervision during periods of no FMD occurrence.
7. The current outbreak is limited to the Zambezi Region and does not affect the FMD status of the rest of Namibia.
8. There is no FMD outbreak in the FMD free zone of Namibia from which beef for export to trading partners is sourced.

9. The Directorate of Veterinary Services does not certify any beef or livestock product for export to the Republic of Philippines.
10. The Ministry has made great strides in bringing this particular outbreak under control including the compulsory vaccination of all the animals in the affected kraals and is continuing to perform the mandatory surveillance activities in order to comply with World Animal Health (OIE) directives on FMD.
11. The Ministry will keep the public updated on the progress of this particular outbreak but at the same time give producers and trading partners alike the assurance that FMD in Namibia is under control, safe for this particular outbreak, and that beef and livestock exported from Namibia are subjected to a high level of veterinary inspection and supervision to ensure its safety.

Sincerely,


14-01-2015
14/01/2015
Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry

Joseph Silita
PERMANENT SECRETARY