



## REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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# MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### FIRST UPDATE ON THE OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE OHANGWENA, OMUSATI AND OSHIKOTO REGIONS

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF) would like to inform the public that an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was initially detected by the Directorate of Veterinary Services on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 in Okongo Constituency of Ohangwena Region and Okankolo Constituency of Oshikoto region. Since then, it has been detected in a number of constituencies within Ohangwena and Omusati regions. There are also reported suspected cases of clinical signs in Kunene North of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

No outbreaks have yet been detected in the FMD free and surveillance zones of Namibia which is south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence.

In terms of Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry hereby announces the following updated control measures:

#### 1. Control Areas

For the purpose of controlling this outbreak, the Directorate of Veterinary Services has subdivided the Northern Communal Areas which consists of an **infected**, **containment** and **surveillance** areas.

##### 1.1 Infected area

These are the areas where FMD cases have been detected or areas close to where the disease has been detected which are as follows:

- The whole of the Ohangwena Region,

- Areas in Oshikoto Region:
  - Okankolo constituency ,
  - Onyaanya Constituency north of B1 road,
  - Omuthiya Constituency north of B1 road,
  - Eengodi Constituency
  - Onayena Constituency
  - Oniipa Constituency
- Areas in Oshana Region
  - Ondangwa Constituency north of B1 road and C 46
  - Okaku Constituency North of C 46
  - Ongwediva Constituency North of C46
  - Oshakati East Constituency North of C 46
  - Oshakati West Constituency North of C 46
  - Okatana Constituency North of C 46 and D 3609 and straight up to Oshana-Ohangwena border
- Areas in Omusati Region
  - All Constituencies and their parts North of C 46
- Areas in Kavango West Region
  - Mpungu Constituency, west of B15 and B11 roads

However, the infected area(s) may change as more surveillance data becomes available.

### **1.2 Containment area**

This is the area which surrounds and includes the infected area and comprises of the following:

- The whole of the FMD Protection Zone which is made up of the Northern Communal areas west of Shamagorwa Veterinary Fence. Shamagorwa fence forms the boundary between Mukwe and Ndiyona in the Kavango East Region.
- This area will be subject to movement control, intensive livestock inspections and vaccination against FMD and Lungsickness.

### **1.3 Surveillance Area**

This comprises of areas in the former FMD surveillance zone which is a band of two farms or 10 km wide, south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence and the whole of Gam communal area.

## **2. Preventive Measures**

### **2.1 Preventive Measures in the Infected and containment area**

In the infected and containment areas, the Ministry would like to advise farmers and the public as follows:



- Movement of cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, and wild animals from the FMD Free Zone (excluding the Surveillance zone) through the containment area (e.g. for export to Angola), may only be permitted under Red Cross permit in sealed vehicles.
- Cattle, sheep, goat and pigs may be moved into the containment area for direct slaughter within 24 hours under DVS supervision. Movement is only permitted under a veterinary Red Cross movement permit in sealed vehicles.
- For events such as weddings, funerals and home slaughter, movement may be allowed for **direct slaughter** within 24 hours under veterinary supervision.
- Cattle, sheep and goats may be moved into the containment area provided they are quarantined for a minimum of 35 days in an official DVS quarantine farm where they shall be vaccinated against FMD and Lungsickness in the case of cattle.
- In the case of products such as meat, fresh milk, thatch grass, hay, straw, crop residues may be moved into and within the infected and containment area. However these products are not allowed out of these areas.

## **2.2 Preventive Measures Surveillance Area South of the Veterinary Cordon fence**

- All movements of livestock within, into and out of the surveillance zone are hereby suspended till further notice.
- There will be intensive livestock inspection and farmers will be advised accordingly by the respective State veterinarians of their areas when their farms will be visited.

## **3. General information**

FMD is spread by movement of infected animals and animal products including contaminated vehicles, clothes, shoes and other objects. Road blocks will be set up at strategic points to restrict movement of unauthorized animals and animal product and disinfection of vehicles and shoes.

Any animal found to have been imported illegally into Namibia or any stray animal will be confiscated and may be destroyed in accordance with the Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011.

Farmers with livestock grazing across the Namibian-Angolan border are required to ensure that their animals are vaccinated at designated vaccination points before moving across the border. The designated vaccination points will be announced in due course

Registered Commercial Retailers are required to source meat from suppliers approved by Ministry of Health and Social Services, local municipal authorities or DVS.

Directorate of Veterinary Services has deployed surveillance teams to investigate the extent of the disease outbreak and to determine the source of the infection. Farmers are requested to present animals at their nearest crush pen for inspection when announced.