



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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PRESS RELEASE

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**ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF CATTLE FROM BOTSWANA:
LIFTING OF MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

On 11th February 2014, following reports of theft of at least three cattle from Botswana and their subsequent illegal importation into Eiseb and Talismanus areas, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry was prompted to impose restrictions on all livestock movements into and out of Eiseb and Talismanus areas. The Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS), with help of the police and the local community members, launched intensive investigations and follow-ups on the matter.

Consequently, all the animals in question have since been recovered and it was also ascertained that these cattle had in fact originated from the Foot and Mouth Disease Free Zone of Botswana. Laboratory tests and clinical examinations by the local State Veterinarian have also confirmed that these animals were indeed free from FMD or any other notifiable diseases.

In light of these developments all the livestock movement restrictions which had been imposed on Eiseb and Talismanus areas on the 11th February 2014 are hereby lifted. However, members of the public, and in particular the communities residing along the border with Botswana, are strongly urged to stop any illegal importation of animals or animal products into the country and to be on the lookout so that incidences of a similar nature are prevented and that if they do occur, are immediately reported to nearest police station or State Veterinary Office.

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It is the duty of every patriotic Namibian to ensure that our country's economy is not jeopardised by the selfish interests of a few individuals.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Eiseb and Talismanus communities for their cooperation and assistance during the just ended period of livestock movement restrictions.


Joseph S. Iita
THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
12 03 2014
Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Agriculture, Water & Forestry