



Republic of Namibia

## Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

### Press Statement

#### Re: Animal Health Conditions for Exports of Cattle and Small Stock to South Africa

During a bilateral meeting between Namibian and South African Veterinary Authorities held in Pretoria, December 2013, South Africa announced that it was in the process of harmonizing its animal health import requirements for livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) from SADC countries. In that regard, South Africa tabled veterinary import permits that were to be implemented with effect from 1 May 2014.

Although Namibia was in agreement with RSA's intention aimed at harmonizing animal health conditions for importation of livestock into that country, Namibia was of the opinion that these could not be applied uniformly across all countries in the SADC sub-region. This is because animal health conditions were not necessarily the same in the respective countries. For example, Namibia exported livestock from a zone that is internationally recognized as free of Foot and Mouth Disease without vaccination; has an excellent animal identification and traceability system; applies a range of animal disease prevention and control measures as well as a well-structured animal disease surveillance system. With these measures, Namibia was able to provide a high level of sanitary protection to importing countries.

The Acting Chief Veterinary Officer therefore requested for a meeting with the South African veterinary authorities to discuss the matter on a bilateral level in order to come up with country specific conditions for its exports of cattle, sheep and goats. The bilateral meeting was then held on 7 March 2014 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The discussions, which were held in a very cordial atmosphere, resulted in the two countries agreeing to urgently re-examine the animal health conditions for the export of livestock from Namibia to South Africa. In this regard, an ad hoc expert team comprising of one official each from the two countries was appointed to draft the new veterinary health certificates for cattle, sheep and goats to be exported to RSA. The agreed animal health measures would then be implemented with effect from 1 May 2014. Once the conditions are agreed upon by the two countries, the results will be communicated to all concerned stakeholders.

  
Joseph S. Iita  
PERMANENT SECRETARY

