



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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PRESS RELEASE

OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN THE OHANGWENA 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 was detected by the Directorate of Veterinary Services on the 11 May 2015 at Ondama Yomunghete crushpen and on the 12 May 2015 at Okalupalona and Onehanga crushpens in the Okongo Constituency of the Ohangwena Region. A second outbreak was detected on the 13th of May 2015 at Okakango village in the Okankolo constituency of the Oshikoto Region.

The disease has since been confirmed by the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek on 12 May 2015.

In response to the outbreak, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Directorate of Veterinary Services will implement and enforce the following disease control measures in accordance with the Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011.

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.

i. Infected area

Infected area currently consists of Okongo and Okankolo constituencies where the disease has been detected; however, this may change once more surveillance data becomes available.

ii. Containment area

A line along the B 1 road from Oshivelo to Oshikango Border Post, then from Oshivelo Gate to Bravo Gate, from Bravo Gate via Mpungu Vlei to Katwitwi Border Post and the Namibia-Angola border to the north.

iii. Surveillance area

This is an area that will be subject to intensive livestock inspections to rule out the presence of the disease. This area comprises of the FMD Protection zone of Namibia which currently is composed of all Regions in the Northern Communal Areas west of the Shamagorwa Veterinary Fence in Kavango East (Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, Kavango East and West and Kunene North).

Movement Control

The Ministry would like to advise farmers and the public not to move cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and wild animals; meat, milk, hides, manures, hides and skins, horns, bones, trophies and other potentially infectious material such as thatch grass, hay, straw, crop residues from, into and within the infected and containment areas to any part of Namibia.

Movement outside the containment areas must be authorized by the Directorate of Veterinary Services which will issue **Red Cross** movement permits for the rest of the Northern Communal Areas west of a fence at Shamagorwa in the Kavango East Region which is the boundary between Ndiyona and Mukwe constituencies up to the northern part of Kunene Region.

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.

All movements of animals across the Namibian/Angolan international border are hereby suspended with immediate effect. Any animal found to have been imported illegally into Namibia will be confiscated and may be destroyed in accordance with the Animal Health Act No. 1 of 2011.

Movements of animals from south of the veterinary cordon fence to the northern communal area is suspended and all issued movement permits are cancelled until further notice.

Surveillance

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 and the general public are requested to report any animal showing clinical signs consistent with FMD to their nearest Veterinary Office or Namibian Police.

The FMD clinical signs include:

1. Salivation
2. Not eating
3. Limping
4. Reluctance to move
5. Fever
6. Blisters and ulcers on the tongue, gum and on the feet

The following pictures show the signs of FMD:



Information Dissemination

The Ministry will be updating the public through radio announcements, community and farmers meetings.

Vaccinations

Vaccination of cattle in response to the FMD outbreak will be announced and farmers are requested to bring **all** cattle to the nearest crush-pen.