



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

Tel. :(061) 208 7604/7719
Fax: (061) 2087767
Enquiries: Dr. Shoopala/M. Kalo

Office of the Permanent Secretary
Divisions: Public Relations
Private Bag 13184, **Windhoek**

15 February 2017

Media response- NAMPA

1. How serious is the situation in those villages and how many cattle have died so far as a result of the disease?

Lumpy skin disease is an economically important disease of cattle and can produce a chronic debility in infected cattle. No death so far has been reported.

2. How many cattle have been diagnosed with the disease or showing symptoms?

So far a total number of 11 cattle from 5 different homesteads have been affected in Otjituuo and Okondjatu areas in Okakarara constituency.

3. Can you tell us some of the symptoms of Lumpy Skin disease and how it is spread to other animals?

Lumpy skin disease is a viral disease of cattle that is spread by biting insects such as mosquitoes, characterised by nodules on the skin and other parts of the body.

4. What makes Lumpy Skin disease be associated with the heavy pours of rainfall?

Biting insects such as mosquitoes' active season reaches the peak in summer, which is normally characterised by rain and high temperature.

5. Any word for these insects transmitting the disease from one animal to another.

They are of veterinary importance as they transmit a number of important livestock diseases such as Lumpy skin disease, Rift Valley fever etc.

6. Finally, how do you (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Division State Veterinary) intend to control the spread of the disease in those villages of Otjituuo?

- Vaccination
- Movement restrictions
- Active Lumpy skin disease surveillance activities to establish the extent of the disease.
- Suspension of all animals' gatherings activities in the restricted areas.
- Roadblocks set up at strategic points in order to ensure compliance with the measures.

7. Doctor, you can add any other information that will create more public awareness on this matter

The Ministry is strongly advising farmers in Okakarara constituency and the country at large to vaccinate their cattle against Lumpy skin disease and to control vectors. The Ministry is encouraging farmers to report any suspected Lumpy Skin Disease cases to their nearest state veterinary services office for further investigation. The ministry is also advising the farmers that they can administer sulphonamides and antibiotics to control secondary bacterial infection and good nursing care to the cattle showing clinical signs.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry further request the full cooperation of farmers and the public during this time to ensure the shortest possible delay to normalization of farming in the area.

Yours sincerely,

Percy W. Misika

Permanent Secretary