



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

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VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO. 9 OF 2022

LIFTING OF CONTROL MEASURES IMPOSED AS A RESULT OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) IN WALVIS BAY AND SWAKOPMUND, ERONGO REGION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform hereby informs farmers and the general public of the lifting of the control measures imposed after cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza were detected in Erongo region. The disease was responsible for over 1 000 deaths of birds mainly the Cape cormorants. The first report of observed dead birds was on 13 January 2022 at Sea Bird Island in Walvis Bay and Central Veterinary Laboratory confirmed HPAI H5N1 strain on 25 January 2022. Other areas affected included areas along Swakopmund. The disease was confirmed only in wild birds mainly the Cape cormorants occurring along the coastal line of Walvis Bay and Swakopmund.

For the purpose of controlling the HPAI outbreak, control measures were instituted with immediate effect by the ministry, which included among others; movement restriction of all live domestic and wild birds from, in and out of the coastal areas of Erongo region and suspension of Guano harvesting and Guano movement from Erongo region. The last HPAI cases were reported on 18 March 2022. The outbreak is considered to have been successfully controlled, hence the lifting of all restrictive measures effective 2 August 2022.

The Ministry would further like to inform poultry farmers that despite the lifting of restrictive measures, poultry farmers should continue to apply biosecurity measures and safety measures should be practised during Guano harvesting and handling.

The Ministry sincerely thank the farmers and the general public for their cooperation. All staff members for their hard work and commitment as well as all Stakeholders and line ministries for the unwavering support in the fight against HPAI disease.

Dr. Albertina Shilongo

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

