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UPDATE ON THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN THE //KHARAS REGION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Water and Land Reform through the Directorate of Veterinary Services hereby provides an update to the farmers and the general public on the recent outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) which is still confined in the Karasburg Veterinary District of //Kharas Region. As of 15 October 2026, a total of a hundred and thirty-one (131) animals tested positive across eighteen (18) farms with the virus circulating, confirmed as FMD serotype Southern African Territory (SAT) 1.

In line with the Animal Health Act (Act No. 1 of 2011), the following control measures continue to be enforced: intensified disease surveillance, movement controls and tracing of livestock movement from the infected area that occurred prior to the detection of the outbreak.

1. **Areas North of the Veterinary Cordon Fence:**

   a. The movement of cloven-hoofed animals and their products within areas North of the Veterinary Cordon Fence is still allowed except in the Zambezi Region;
   b. Movement of eligible animal products and animal feed from north to areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) will continue subject to existing veterinary protocols.

2. **Movement of animal products and animal feed into and within //Kharas Region:**

   a. Movement of raw meat and animal products from registered facilities **outside //Kharas Region** (abattoirs, butcheries, and cold storages) either under the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform; Ministry of Health and Social Services, Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia to retailers/ for own consumption in //Kharas Region **is permitted** with valid documentations.
   b. Movement of raw meat and animal products from butcheries, abattoirs, slaughterhouses, informal slaughter slabs, cold storages **in //Kharas Region** remains restricted.
   c. Meat purchased from retailers within //Kharas Region is permitted for own consumption and proof of purchase is presented.
   d. Movement of registered processed animal feed into and within //Kharas Region with proof of purchase is permitted.
   e. Import and in transit of raw products of cloven-hoofed animals accompanied by a valid veterinary import permit and certified health certificate is permitted.

3. **Provisions to slaughter animals within the areas South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence excluding the //Kharas Region:**

   a. Animals which have been standing in holding facilities (limited to feedlots/quarantines) registered on Namibia Livestock Traceability System (NamLITS) can move for direct slaughter under a livestock movement permit to registered abattoirs provided:
      i. Biosecurity measures are applied at holding facilities;
      ii. Retrospective tracing under NamLITS showing no introduction of new animals for the past 30 days;
      iii. Clinical examination and sampling of animals is conducted with negative FMD test results
   b. Slaughtering for own home consumption is permitted on condition that the meat and meat products are not moved or transported from the premise of slaughter.
   c. Slaughtering at the farm/homestead for sale purposes is prohibited until further notice.
   d. Meat from non-cloven-hoofed animals should remain identifiable with the head and hooves attached.

4. **Areas South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence:**

   a. Raw meat from cloven-hoofed animals slaughtered at registered abattoirs south of the VCF is allowed to move within areas south of the VCF and into //Kharas Region.

5. **Movement of processed animal products countrywide:**

   a. The movement and trade of the following animal processed products is allowed:
      i. Commercially produced cooked processed meat products from registered facilities
      ii. Thoroughly cooked meat (well done)
      iii. Commercially produced biltong and dried sausages (droëwors) from registered facilities
      iv. Pasteurized milk and their products from registered facilities
      v. Treated hides and trophies subject to existing veterinary protocols
      vi. Hides processed up to wet-blue subject to existing veterinary protocols

6. **Import, Export and in transit of animal's products:**

   a. Import and in transit of raw meat of cloven-hoofed animals and animal products is allowed with a valid veterinary import or in transit permit.
   b. Animals standing and ready for export will be allowed to be exported (excluding animals in //Kharas Region) subject to import conditions set by the importing country.

FMD clinical signs are characterised by sores, blisters and wounds in the mouth and between the hooves of infected animals. Infected animals are reluctant to move, salivate excessively and are prone to lose body condition.

Therefore, farmers, members of the public and stakeholders are urged to be on the lookout and report clinical symptoms of FMD to the nearest State Veterinary Office.

The public will be kept informed as new information becomes available, subject to changes in the disease situation in the country.

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