REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION NO: 17 of 2026

DETECTION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE ZAMBEZI REGION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform through the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) hereby informs farmers, livestock owners, stakeholders and the general public of the detection of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) at Kalala Island in Kabe constituency of Zambezi Region.

On 5th October 2026, DVS officials from Katima Mulilo State Veterinary Office conducted FMD investigations and observed a total of 20 cattle showing FMD clinical signs. Twelve (12) samples were collected and submitted to the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) in Windhoek on 6 October 2026 for diagnostic testing. All samples tested **positive for Foot-and-Mouth Disease virus on the 7th October 2026.**

In accordance with the **Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No. 1 of 2011)**, the **National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Contingency Plan** has been activated with the aim of containing and controlling the outbreak.

Intensive surveillance has already commenced to establish the full extent of the outbreak and the following control measures have been instituted with **immediate effect and until further notice**:

- Suspension of movement of all cloven-hoofed animals and their raw products in the entire Zambezi region. All issued permits are hereby cancelled;
- Suspension of marketing and trade including all animal gathering events of all cloven-hoofed animals (auctions, informal markets, local abattoirs etc);
- Immediate halt to the slaughter of cloven-hoofed animals at local abattoirs, informal markets, and during social events;
- Slaughter at export abattoir as part of Commodity-Based Trade is permitted following favourable traceability of cattle currently in quarantine;
- Setting of roadblocks at strategic areas to enforce the movement restrictions of all cloven-hoofed animals and their raw products within the region;
- Emergency vaccination in the affected area has commenced.

Foot and Mouth Disease is a **highly contagious viral disease** affecting cloven-hoofed animals, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and susceptible wild animals. The disease is commonly characterised by the development of **blisters (vesicles), sores and ulcers in and around the mouth and on the hooves, particularly in between**. Infected animals may be reluctant to move, exhibit excessive salivation and lose body condition.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform through the Directorate of Veterinary Services remains committed to containing and controlling this outbreak. Farmers and other stakeholders are urged to report all suspicious cases to the nearest State Veterinary Office as well as cooperate with FMD control measures.

Regular updates will be provided as additional information becomes available.

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10 OCT 2026
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