



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

06 October 2020

PRESS RELEASE

RE: OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN THE FMD PROTECTION ZONE AT HOHA VILLAGE, NDIYONA CONSTITUENCY, KAVANGO EAST REGION

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform would like to inform farmers and the General Public about the confirmed Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the FMD protection zone at Hoha Village (E 20°69; S 18°06') in Ndiyona Constituency of the Kavango East Region. Farmers reported cattle showing FMD clinical signs (limping, salivation) to officials of the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS). Veterinary Officials immediately instituted an outbreak investigation that included clinical inspection of cattle as well as collecting samples for laboratory analysis. Foot and Mouth Disease cases were subsequently confirmed by Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek on 28 September 2020.

Investigations by officials indicated that 13 cattle out of 657 population of cattle in the Crush pen area of Hoha village tested positive for Food and Mouth Disease. Those 13 cattle were found on eight (8) kraals out of 23 kraals in that village.

Control measures

In line with the Animal Health Act, 1 of 2011, the following control measures are put in place with immediate effect:

1. Temporary movement restrictions/ban of all live cloven-hoofed animals within and out of FMD Protection zone (all areas north of the Veterinary Cordon Fence/Red Line. except Zambezi region and Mukwe Constituency in the Kavango East Region) have been imposed with immediate effect until further notice. Cloven-hoofed animals comprises of cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and wild animals.
2. All animal gatherings (auctions, permit days, cultural shows etc.) are also suspended except for the purposes of vaccination.
3. Slaughtering of cloven-hoofed animals is also hereby suspended.
4. Movement restriction/ban of other potentially infectious commodities out of the FMD Protection zone such as hides, skins, game trophies, grass, plant materials, etc., has also

been imposed until further notice.

5. All movement of animals across the Namibian/Angolan International borders are hereby suspended with immediate effect.
6. A number of roadblocks will be set up at strategic points, and members of the public are urged to fully cooperate with the Veterinary and Police Officials.
7. Surveillance teams have been deployed in the regions to establish the extent of the outbreak and farmers are requested to present their livestock for inspection.
8. Immediate vaccination of all cattle at risk using the tri-valent purified FMD vaccine will be conducted and ALL farmers are strongly urged to bring their cattle for vaccination to the designated crushpens as per announcement by DVS officials.
9. All previously issued permits into, within and out of the whole protection zone is hereby cancelled and recalled.
10. Trace back and forward of all livestock movements from and into Ndiyona Constituency is ongoing using the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS).

Transmission of FMD virus and clinical signs

FMD is a viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals. FMD virus is found in all excretions and secretions of infected animals. Notably, these animals breathe out a large amount of aerosolized virus, which can infect other animals via the respiratory or oral routes.

FMD clinical signs include salivation, not grazing, limping, reluctance to move, fever, blisters and ulcers on the tongue, gum and on the feet/hoves.

All suspected FMD cases should be reported to the nearest State Veterinary Offices, any office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform or the Namibian Police. Farmers and the General Public are hereby requested for their usual cooperation in dealing with animal health emergencies.



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Executive Director

