



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF NAMIBIA

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

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**ACTING MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER
AND LAND REFORM**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE
DETECTION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN FMD FREE
ZONE OF NAMIBIA – //KHARAS REGION**

Honourable Speaker,
Honourable Members,

1. Following the outbreak of FMD in some Southern African countries, the nation has been updated of the existing imminent risk of Foot and Mouth Disease to the FMD free Zone of Namibia.
2. Today I rise with profound sadness and uneasiness to announce the unfortunate detection of Foot and Mouth Disease in our FMD free zone.
3. The disease was detected in a commercial farm located in Karasburg State Veterinary District in //Kharas Region during routine disease surveillance by Veterinary Officials.
4. Samples were collected from eleven (11) cattle showing clinical signs consistent with Foot and Mouth Disease on 22 September 2026. The laboratory analysis was conducted at the Central Veterinary Laboratory in Windhoek. Ten (10) of the eleven (11) samples tested positive today, the 23rd September 2026. This state confirms an active FMD outbreak in Namibia's WOAHA recognised FMD Free Zone.
5. As such, this new development compels the Ministry to institute immediate control measures as provided for in the Animal Health Act, No. 1 of 2011 to control and contain the outbreak within the shortest period of time as possible.
6. The measures to be implemented with immediate effect are:
 - Suspension of cloven-hoofed animals' movement and their products country wide;
 - Suspension of import and exports of all cloven-hoofed animals until further notice.

7. Furthermore, the Directorate of Veterinary Services will issue a Veterinary Public Notification that will stipulate all the control measures in detail.
8. Honourable members, I would like to inform this house that this development comes with serious impact and implications to the National Economy and livelihood of the Namibian people, due to suspension of marketing of Livestock and livestock products, locally and internationally.
9. Dear honourable members, I would like to assure the Nation that the ministry will work tirelessly to contain the disease within the shortest period of time.
10. I therefore, fellow Namibians call upon a strong collaboration and support from all OMAs, livestock industry, stakeholders, the public and all the relevant institutions to unite in the fight against this devastating highly infectious disease. It is a national responsibility for every Namibian citizen that a restoration and normalization of marketing of livestock and livestock remain our highest priority.

I thank you