



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE PRESIDENCY

PRESS CONFERENCE: FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

STATEMENT

BY

DR CHARLES MUBITA, MP

**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**

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Fellow Namibians, our Country detected clinical cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in the //Kharas Region on 22 September 2026. These positive cases of FMD were confirmed as a result of Laboratory tests which were performed on 11 samples collected from a herd of 65 cattle on the infected farm. A total of 10 out of 11 of those samples tested positive for FMD virus.

In terms of applicable laws and regulations, whenever such an unfortunate situation occurs in the country, the response to this particular outbreak is the Animal Health Act 1 of 2011. Following this detection, on 23 September 2026 the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Land Reform issued a Notification in terms of the Act, which necessitated the activation of the FMD Contingency Plan and imposed various restrictions on the movement of all cloven-hooved animals and their raw products across the country. The restrictions were activated to allow time for the Ministry to assess the extent of the spread of the disease and to take immediate measures to curb its spread.

Fellow Namibians, during the last few days, the Ministry has received several inquiries from the public and various sectors seeking clarification. A series of panic reactions has spread widely across various parts of our country, which we hope to address here today.

Following this recent event, the Ministry would like to provide an update to the nation on this unfortunate situation, measures that have been taken to deal with the situation, and additional steps that are being taken to deal with the outbreak of the FMD with a view to suppressing it accordingly.

Fellow Namibians, according to the Animal Health Act 1 of 2011, FMD is a notifiable and state-controlled disease. Furthermore, this disease has the capability of causing catastrophic economic consequences, which have the potential to disrupt the entire value chain of the Livestock sector.

Traceability activities commenced immediately the results from the infected farm were confirmed positive for FMD on 23 September 2026.

The outcome of traceability revealed that there were four (4) cattle that moved from the infected farm in Karasburg District to Otjozondjupa Region. A clinical examination was carried out, and a total of 30 samples were collected on 24 September 2026. These samples included the four (4) cattle from the currently infected farm and an additional 26 cattle that were tested on a precautionary basis. These 26 cattle are residential and are not connected to the origin of the infected farm. All the tested samples yielded negative results.

It is imperative to note that 65 cattle found on the infected farm and all other animals in the immediate surrounding farms remain under strict monitoring.

For precautionary measures, a total of 199 samples were collected from animals during a routine surveillance exercise, which commenced on 22 to 25 September 2026. The distribution of the collected samples is as follows: //Kharas (Karasburg 117), Khomas (Windhoek 1), Omaheke (Gobabis 50), Otjozondjupa (Otjiwarongo 30), and Oshana (Ondangwa 1) regions. Out of 199 samples, 17 tested positive (all from Karasburg State Veterinary District). So far, all positive cases remain confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District.

The Ministry has mobilised Veterinary Officials from various offices across the country, consisting of both Private and Public sectors. This has intensified traceability, clinical examination, and collection of blood samples to determine the extent of the infection in the shortest period of time.

The outcome of this exercise will allow the Ministry to determine how, where and when the current restrictions imposed on 23 September 2026 will gradually be eased. An announcement is envisaged to be made as soon as the above results are made available.

The Ministry, with the support of the industry, has established the FMD Support Fund, which is aimed at mobilising funds against the fight of FMD. We are therefore appealing to the general public, public/private sector and the development partners to contribute to the FMD Support Fund as this will help Government to intensify measures necessary to deal effectively with the outbreak of the FMD.

For purposes of making contributions to the FMD Support Fund, contact is:

- 1. Dr. Ingrid Henckert-Weissnar, Project Manage-
+264 811 276161**

Banking details:

**FNB Namibia, Windhoek corporate centre
281872
64290199172**

- 2. Bank Windhoek
Kudu Branch
482172
8052561959**

Fellow Namibians, I reiterate that FMD has devastating economic consequences; it disrupts marketing, compromises food security, deprives families of their income and threatens rural livelihoods, which increases unemployment; just to mention just a few.

This disease sees no boundaries; it is not discriminating, and it can affect any livestock wherever it is found.

The analysis of data from the traceability system collected from the farm of origin to the surrounding areas is partially completed, as the 14-day incubation period is still ongoing.

While surveillance shall continue we will announce in due course the lifting of some restrictions in certain areas in line with the Animal Health Act, 1 of 2011 through a Veterinary Public Notice.

I therefore call upon every Namibian, individually and collectively, to fully cooperate with the authorities during this difficult period, as we are working tirelessly to normalise the situation. The Government undertakes to continue updating the public and the nation at large from time to time as soon as there are new developments on this critical situation.

I thank you.