



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

28 October 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN THE //KHARAS AND ZAMBEZI REGIONS UPDATE

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform (MAFWLR) wishes to provide an update on the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in the //Kharas and Zambezi regions and the control measures being implemented to contain them and prevent further spread of the disease.

1. FMD outbreak in the //Kharas Region

Following the confirmation of FMD, serotype SAT 1, on 23 September 2026, the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) has continued to intensify surveillance, trace-forward and trace-back investigations using the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS), as well as implement livestock and livestock products movement controls in the affected areas.

As of 28 October 2026, a total of 18 farms had been confirmed as infected, with 131 positive cases recorded. The outbreak remains confined to the Karasburg State Veterinary District.

Following the commencement of the compulsory FMD vaccination campaign, surveillance activities have transitioned to areas north of the B3 road to strengthen disease monitoring and early detection beyond the vaccination area. The second round of surveillance has commenced, with 10 farms inspected and sampled to date. Active surveillance activities are ongoing.

A total of 18 stationary roadblocks and veterinary checkpoints remain operational across the //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas and Otjozondjupa regions to enforce livestock movement controls in line with the prescribed restrictions.

2. Compulsory vaccination and the animal disease control fence

The FMD vaccination campaign commenced on 17 October 2026 in the //Kharas Region, with 19 vaccination teams deployed to vaccinate approximately 13,000 heads of cattle. As of 28 October 2026, 7,402 cattle had been vaccinated across 81 farms.

The vaccination campaign will target all farms and establishments situated south of the B3 road (Ariamsvlei to Grünau) and the C10 road leading to Ai-Ais, extending southwards to the Orange River. The target area will also include a buffer band of two farms north of the B3 road.

3. FMD outbreak in the Zambezi Region

FMD was confirmed on Kalala Island in the Zambezi Region on 6 October 2026. In response, the DVS has implemented vaccination, surveillance and livestock movement control measures to contain the outbreak and prevent its spread beyond the designated Disease Management Area (DMA).

As of 28 October 2026, a total of 53,913 cattle across 37 crush pens have been vaccinated within a 30-kilometre radius of the affected area, including the surrounding areas. No new FMD cases have been reported outside the designated Disease Management Area (DMA). The outbreak remains confined to Kalala Island in the Zambezi Region, with active surveillance ongoing to monitor the disease situation and detect any potential spread.

The roadblocks at Luhonono and Nakabolelwa are operational and jointly manned by DVS officials and the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) to enforce livestock movement restrictions.

4. Livestock Movement Restrictions and Conditions for Animal Products

4.1 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 (VCF) remains permitted, except in the Zambezi Region, where specific veterinary restrictions apply.
- b. The movement of eligible animal products and animal feed from areas north of the VCF to areas south of the VCF remains permitted, subject to existing veterinary protocols.

4.2 Movement of Animal Products and Animal Feed into and within the //Kharas Region

- a. The movement of raw meat and animal products originating from registered facilities outside the //Kharas Region, including abattoirs, butcheries and cold storage facilities registered with the relevant competent authorities, to retailers or for personal consumption within the region is permitted, provided that valid supporting documentation accompanies the products.

- b. The movement of raw meat and animal products originating from butcheries, abattoirs, slaughterhouses, informal slaughter slabs and cold storage facilities within the //Kharas Region remains restricted.
- c. Meat purchased from retailers within the //Kharas Region may be transported for personal consumption, provided that proof of purchase is available.
- d. The movement of registered processed animal feed into and within the //Kharas Region is permitted, provided that proof of purchase is available.
- e. The importation and transit of raw products of cloven-hoofed animals are permitted when accompanied by a valid veterinary import or transit permit, as applicable, and the required certified health documentation.

4.3 Conditions for Slaughtering Animals in Areas South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence, Excluding the //Kharas Region

- a. Animals kept at holding facilities, limited to registered feedlots and quarantine facilities listed on the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS), may be moved for direct slaughter to registered abattoirs under a valid livestock movement permit, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Appropriate biosecurity measures must be implemented at the holding facilities.
 - ii. Retrospective tracing through NamLITS must confirm that no new animals have been introduced into the facility during the preceding 30 days.
 - iii. Animals must undergo clinical examination and sampling, with negative FMD test results required before movement for slaughter.
- b. Slaughtering animals for personal or household consumption is permitted, provided that the resulting meat and meat products are not moved or transported away from the premises where slaughter took place.
- c. Slaughtering animals on farms or homesteads for commercial sale remains prohibited until further notice.
- d. Meat from non-cloven-hoofed animals must remain identifiable, with the head and hooves attached.

4.4 Movement of Raw Meat in Areas South of the Veterinary Cordon Fence

- a. Raw meat from cloven-hoofed animals slaughtered at registered abattoirs south of the VCF may be moved within areas south of the VCF and into the //Kharas Region, subject to the applicable veterinary requirements and movement restrictions.

4.5 Movement of Processed Animal Products Countrywide

The movement and trade of the following processed animal products are permitted, subject to applicable veterinary protocols and requirements:

- a. Commercially produced cooked and processed meat products from registered facilities.
- b. Thoroughly cooked meat, prepared to a well-done standard.
- c. Commercially produced biltong and dried sausages (droëwors) from registered facilities.
- d. Pasteurised milk and milk products from registered facilities.
- e. Treated hides and trophies, subject to existing veterinary protocols.
- f. Hides processed to the wet-blue stage, subject to existing veterinary protocols.

4.6 Import, Export and Transit of Animal Products and Live Animals

- a. The importation and transit of raw meat from cloven-hoofed animals and other animal products are permitted when accompanied by a valid veterinary import or transit permit, as applicable, and subject to the relevant veterinary requirements.
- b. Animals held and ready for export may be exported, excluding animals in the //Kharas Region, subject to the import requirements and conditions stipulated by the importing country.

5. Public cooperation and reporting

Farmers, livestock industry stakeholders, and members of the public are urged to comply with all veterinary directives and livestock movement restrictions. Any suspected FMD cases or unauthorized movements of livestock, meat and meat products should be reported immediately to the nearest district State Veterinary Office.

The Ministry encourages farmers and community members to participate actively in farmer information sessions and community engagement initiatives to improve awareness of FMD prevention and control measures, strengthen compliance, and support efforts to prevent further disease transmission.

The Ministry continues to implement surveillance, vaccination, livestock movement controls, and other disease control measures to contain the outbreaks in the //Kharas and Zambezi regions.

The media is encouraged to work closely with DVS to disseminate accurate and timely information, promote public awareness, and encourage compliance with the prescribed disease control measures.

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**For media inquiries, please contact: Romeo Muyunda, Deputy Director,
Romeo.Muyunda@mawlr.gov.na; +264814523221.**