REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

04 November 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, as well as the control measures being implemented to contain the outbreaks and prevent further spread of the disease.

1. FMD OUTBREAK IN THE //KHARAS REGION

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

As of 04 November 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 been extended to areas north of the B3 road to strengthen disease monitoring and early detection beyond the vaccination area. The second round of surveillance is ongoing, with 51 farms inspected and sampled to date.

A total of 19 stationary roadblocks and veterinary checkpoints remain operational across the //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas and Otjozondjupa regions to enforce livestock and livestock product movement restrictions.

2. COMPULSORY VACCINATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL FENCE

The compulsory FMD vaccination campaign commenced on 17 October 2026 in the //Kharas Region, with 19 vaccination teams deployed. As of 04 November 2026, a total of 8,267 cattle had been vaccinated across 90 farms.

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

The construction of the Animal Disease Control (ADC) fence forms part of the broader disease containment strategy to strengthen physical barriers against the spread of FMD and protect livestock farming areas.

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 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 04 November 2026, the initial vaccination campaign covering a 30-kilometre radius around the affected area has been completed, with a total of 53,913 cattle vaccinated across 37 crush pens. Roadblock operations at Luhonono, Nakabolelwa and Selela remain ongoing, with DVS officials and the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL) enforcing livestock movement restrictions.

Preparations are underway for the second round of vaccination targeting cattle within the DMA and surrounding areas. In addition, preparations are being made for the routine annual FMD vaccination programme across the rest of the Zambezi Region, where cattle are routinely vaccinated times a year as part of the region's ongoing disease prevention and control programme.

No new FMD cases have been reported outside the designated DMA. The outbreak remains confined to Kalala Island, with active surveillance continuing to monitor the disease situation and detect any potential spread.

4. LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCT MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

Livestock and animal product movement restrictions remain in force in accordance with Veterinary Public Notification (VPN) No. 20 of 2026.

Farmers, livestock industry stakeholders, traders, transporters and members of the public are urged to familiarise themselves with and comply with the prescribed movement restrictions and veterinary requirements. Any movement of livestock and animal products must comply with the applicable veterinary permits, health requirements and supporting documentation.

5. FMD SUPPORT FUND: PLEDGES AND DONATIONS

The Ministry appreciates the generous response from companies, organisations and individuals who have pledged and contributed towards the national FMD response efforts. To date, the fund has mobilized approximately N$ 16.2 million in donations and pledges.

The Ministry remains encouraged by the support received and calls upon more companies, organisations and individuals to join this national effort. Collective support is essential to sustaining the disease control interventions and safeguarding Namibia's livestock industry, livelihoods and agricultural economy.

To our farmers and affected communities, Government remains committed to working alongside you throughout this challenging period.

6. 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 unauthorised movements of livestock, meat and meat products should be reported immediately to the nearest District State Veterinary Office.

Farmers and community members are further encouraged to participate in farmer information sessions and community engagement initiatives to strengthen awareness of FMD prevention and control measures, promote compliance and prevent further disease transmission.

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

The media is encouraged to work closely with the 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.