REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

11 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 FMD, serotype SAT 1, on 23 September 2026, the 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 and surrounding areas.

As of 11 November 2026, the outbreak remains confined to the //Kharas region with a total of 18 farms had been confirmed as infected, with 131 positive cases recorded.

Stationary roadblocks and veterinary checkpoints remain operational across the //Kharas, Hardap, Khomas and Otjozondjupa regions to enforce livestock and livestock product movement restrictions.

2. VACCINATION AND INTENSIFIED SURVEILLANCE IN //KHARAS

The compulsory FMD vaccination campaign in the //Kharas Region commenced on 17 October 2026. The campaign targeted farms and establishments situated south of the B3 road, from Ariamsvlei to Grünau, along the C10 towards Ai-Ais and extending southwards to the Orange River, as well as a buffer area comprising two farms north of the B3.

The first round of vaccination has been completed, with the targeted number of cattle vaccinated and establishments covered successfully achieved. Preparations are underway for the second round, which will be conducted alongside post-vaccination monitoring and surveillance to assess the effectiveness of vaccination and support the early detection of any new infections.

To strengthen early detection beyond the vaccination area, intensified surveillance has also been extended to areas north of the B3 road and is ongoing.

The DVS is further preparing for widespread, intensified and risk-based surveillance in areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) outside the //Kharas Region, including communal areas. This surveillance will assist current measures in detecting any evidence of disease spread and assessing the risk of transmission beyond the currently affected area.

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).

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 in the region 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 two to three 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 and therefore the outbreak remains confined to Kalala Island, with active surveillance continuing to monitor the disease situation and detect any potential spread.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH FMD CONTROL MEASURES

Animal and animal-product movement restrictions remain in force in accordance with Veterinary Public Notification (VPN) No. 20 of 2026. These measures are intended to prevent the movement of infection from affected or high-risk areas to other parts of the country.

As further epidemiological information becomes available and the disease situation is assessed, the Directorate will review and, where appropriate, progressively adjust the applicable control measures. All efforts remain focused on containing the outbreaks and facilitating the establishment of an appropriate containment area in accordance with the prescribed applicable animal health requirements at outlined by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

The Ministry is also engaging with trading partners, and discussions are ongoing to facilitate trade in accordance with applicable animal health requirements and the evolving disease situation. These engagements have enabled the export of cattle.sheep and goats to Mauritius, in compliance with the measures prescribed under VPN Nos. 19 and 20 of 2026, including the applicable requirements for the approved establishments from which animals may be exported.

The Ministry further urges livestock owners to ensure that their animals are properly identified, registered and kept within their designated establishments, in accordance with the applicable animal identification and health requirements. Livestock must not be allowed to roam freely, particularly within municipal boundaries, as this poses a risk to animal health, traceability and the effective control of disease outbreaks. The Ministry calls on local authorities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, to strengthen enforcement of livestock-keeping requirements and take appropriate measures to address free-roaming animals, including through the establishment and effective management of livestock impounding facilities. These efforts are essential to strengthening compliance, preventing unauthorized livestock movements and safeguarding national animal health.

6. PUBLIC COOPERATION AND REPORTING

The success of FMD control depends on the cooperation of livestock owners, farmers, traders, transporters, industry stakeholders and the general public.

Members of the public are urged not to move animals or unauthorized animal products and to comply with all movement restrictions and other disease-control measures currently in force.Any suspected FMD case, unexplained signs of disease, or suspected unauthorised movement of animal or animal products should be reported immediately to the nearest District State Veterinary Office.

Farmers and communities are also encouraged to participate in DVS farmer information sessions and other awareness activities. These engagements are intended to strengthen understanding of FMD, improve compliance with veterinary requirements and support early reporting of suspected disease.

The Ministry will continue to implement vaccination, surveillance, traceability, movement controls and other disease-control measures to contain the FMD outbreaks in the //Kharas and Zambezi Regions. The Ministry appreciates the cooperation of farmers, livestock industry stakeholders, traditional authorities, local authorities, law-enforcement agencies, development partners and members of the public in supporting the national FMD outbreak response.

The media is encouraged to continue working closely with the DVS to disseminate accurate and timely information and to support public awareness of the disease-control measures.

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