REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

18 November 2026

PRESS STATEMENT

CLARIFICATION ON LIVESTOCK EXPORT TO MAURITIUS AND UPDATE ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES IN //KHARAS AND ZAMBEZI REGIONS

Fellow Namibians, once again, I greet you and welcome you to this weekly update, an initiative that that the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has initiated to inform stakeholders and members of the public on developments of the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in the country.

FMD CONTROL MEASURES

Over the past few weeks, no new FMD cases have been reported outside the previously affected areas. Surveillance, vaccination and other disease-control measures continue to be implemented and intensified in both the //Kharas and Zambezi Regions to contain the outbreaks, monitor the disease situation and prevent further spread.

//Kharas Region

Following the confirmation of FMD, serotype SAT 1, on 23 September 2026, the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) has continued to intensify disease surveillance, trace-back and trace-forward investigations using the Namibia Livestock Identification and Traceability System (NamLITS), as well as livestock movement controls in the affected and surrounding areas. As of 18 November 2026, the outbreak remains confined to the //Kharas Region.

The compulsory FMD vaccination campaign commenced on 17 October 2026. The first round has been completed, with a total of 8,267 cattle vaccinated across 90 farms against the target population. The second round commenced on 16 November 2026, alongside post-vaccination monitoring and intensified surveillance activities.

Widespread surveillance activities have also been extended to areas south of the Veterinary Cordon Fence (VCF) to strengthen early detection and assess the risk of potential disease spread. These

activities are being supported by private veterinarians who have joined the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) in the ongoing outbreak response.

The second round of surveillance is ongoing in areas north of the B3 with 100 establishments inspected and sampled to date.

Zambezi Region

FMD was confirmed on Kalala Island on 6 October 2026. Following the outbreak, vaccination activities were intensified, with two rounds of vaccination completed on Kalala Island using FMD vaccines covering serotype O and SAT 1, 2 and 3. A total of 53,479 cattle have been vaccinated, achieving coverage of over 95% of the targeted population of 56,269 cattle. The second round of vaccination in the region commenced on 9 November 2026, with 17,938 cattle vaccinated to date, and is scheduled for completion in the second week of January 2027. No new cases have been reported outside the designated Disease Management Area (DMA).

As the infection remains confined to the eastern part of the region, the DMA comprises Kabbe South and Kabbe North Constituencies. The following control measures remain in force within the DMA:

1. Movement of all cloven-hoofed animals and their products from the DMA to the rest of the region remains prohibited.
2. Slaughter of fully vaccinated cattle for household consumption and social events within the DMA is permitted; however, meat may not be moved out of the DMA.
3. Roadblocks and patrol teams remain strategically deployed to enforce movement restrictions. Members of the public are urged to cooperate fully with Veterinary and Police officials.
4. Revaccination of cattle across the region will continue. All farmers are strongly encouraged to present their cattle at designated crush pens in accordance with announcements by DVS officials.

The following activities are permitted in the rest of the Zambezi Region, outside the DMA, subject to applicable veterinary requirements and movement permits where required:

1. Slaughter of cloven-hoofed animals and fully vaccinated cattle at open markets, local and export abattoirs, subject to verification of vaccination status and the issuance of veterinary movement permits.
2. Quarantine of fully vaccinated cattle originating from outside the DMA at Kopano Quarantine Facility.
3. Movement of fully vaccinated cattle from the rest of the region into the DMA.
4. Movement of cloven-hoofed animals from other regions into the Zambezi Region, excluding the DMA.
5. Transit of animals from other regions through the Zambezi Region in sealed trucks.
6. Movement of other commodities, including hides, skins, game trophies and plant materials, into, out of, within and through the rest of the region, excluding the DMA, subject to compliance with the applicable procedures.

7. Movement of products such as raw meat, raw milk and livestock feed into the region, excluding products originating from the //Kharas Region.

The Ministry continues to implement vaccination, surveillance and movement-control measures to contain the outbreak and prevent its spread to other parts of the country.

Fellow Namibians…

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform wishes to address public concerns and misinformation regarding the recent export of livestock to Mauritius amid the ongoing Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks in the //Kharas and Zambezi Regions and the associated disease control measures.

The export of livestock to Mauritius was facilitated in accordance with Section 6 of Veterinary Public Notification (VPN) No. 20 of 2026, which regulates the import, export and transit of animals and animal products during the FMD outbreak. Specifically, Section 6(b) provides for animals that are standing and ready for export to be exported**,** excluding animals in the //Kharas Region, subject to the import requirements of the destination country. The consignment therefore qualified under the existing provisions of the notification and was exported in compliance with the applicable veterinary requirements**.** No special exemption or provision was created or granted to facilitate this consignment.

The consignment comprised of 6,294 animals, namely 2,803 cattle, 2,147 goats and 1,344 sheep. The animals were purchased prior to the declaration of the current FMD outbreak in the //Kharas Region on 23 September 2026 and were exported in compliance with the prescribed veterinary health, traceability, movement-control, health-certification and animal-welfare requirements. The export commenced on 11 November 2026 and was successfully completed on 14 November 2026.

The Ministry further clarifies that this export does not mean that Mauritius is the only destination available to Namibian livestock exporters during the outbreak. Exports to other destinations remain possible, provided the importing country's veterinary requirements can be met and mutually agreed upon by the respective Veterinary Services. Prospective exporters are encouraged to approach their District State Veterinary Offices once they have obtained the necessary import permits from the importing countries to facilitate export of animal and animal products.

Fellow Namibian….

We wish to remind all stakeholders that animal and animal-product movement restrictions remain in force in accordance with VPN No. 20 of 2026. Control measures will be reviewed and adjusted as the epidemiological situation evolves, with the objective of containing the outbreaks and supporting the establishment of an appropriate containment area in accordance with applicable animal health requirements and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) standards.

The Ministry urges all livestock owners, farmers, traders, transporters and members of the public to comply with movement restrictions, ensure that livestock are properly identified and registered,

and immediately report any suspected FMD cases or unauthorized animal movements to the nearest District State Veterinary Office.

The Ministry remains committed to protecting Namibia's livestock sector and livelihoods while safeguarding animal health and maintaining safe and compliant access to domestic, regional and international markets. The public and all stakeholders are urged to rely on official Ministry communication and refrain from spreading unverified information.

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