



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES, WATER AND LAND REFORM

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DETECTION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE //KHARAS REGION

The Directorate of Veterinary Services hereby inform farmers and the Namibian population at large of the detection of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Karasburg. On 22 September 2026, a total of 63 cattle showing clinical signs of FMD were observed during routine disease surveillance activities by veterinary officials from Karasburg state veterinary office. Samples were collected from eleven (11) cattle and submitted to the Central Veterinary Laboratory for diagnosis on 22 September 2026. Ten (10) out of eleven (11) samples tested positive to the FMD virus on 23 September 2026.

In line with the Animal Health Act (Act no. 1 of 2011), the National FMD Contingency Plan is hereby activated with the aim to control this outbreak. The following measures have been instituted with immediate effect until further notice:

- Nationwide suspension of movement for all cloven-hoofed animals and their raw products,
- Nationwide suspension of all marketing and trade of all cloven-hoofed animals,
- Suspension of imports, exports and in-transit of all cloven-hoofed animals and their raw products,
- Immediate halt to the slaughter of cloven-hoofed animals at export and local abattoirs, informal markets, and during social events,
- Intensive surveillance has commenced effective immediately to establish the full extent of the outbreak,
- Setting of roadblocks at strategic areas to enforce the movement control for all cloven-hoofed animals and their raw products,

Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease of cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and other wild animals. The disease is characterized with sores, vesicles and ulcers in the mouth and between the hooves of infected animals. Infected animals are usually reluctant to move, salivate excessively and prone to lose body condition. Milk production is significantly reduced in dairy cows.

In line with the Animal Health Act (Act 1 of 2011), FMD is a notifiable and State controlled disease, farmers and the public are hereby requested to report any suspicious cases of FMD to the nearest state veterinary offices without delay. Farmers are strongly urged to refrain from the illegal importation of FMD vaccines or the vaccination of animals within the FMD-free zone. Such actions constitute a violation of the law and are subject to legal penalties.

The Directorate would like to urge all farmers, the general public and relevant stakeholders to collaborate with DVS in order to control this outbreak within a shortest period of time.

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CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

