



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATIONS

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MEDIA STATEMENT

4 November 2023

OUTBREAK OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASES IN NGAKA MODIRI MOLEMA DISTRICT, NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, would like to announce a suspicion of an outbreak of Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle in Ramatlabama under the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality in North West Province.

The department wishes to emphasize that at this point in time it is just a suspicion of an outbreak, based on positive serology results. Epidemiological investigations are under way to confirm presence or absence of virus circulation.

The farm is located in Ramatlabana, which is a village that borders Botswana. The department collected samples as part of a routine ongoing surveillance programme, and no clinical signs were noted at the time of sampling.

The farm has been placed under quarantine, and follow-up investigation including sample collection is underway at the farm in question as well as surrounding farms and villages. There have not been any recent movements of animals from the farm in question to other properties.

Farmers in North West Province, are cautioned to observe bio-security measures – not to allow any new animals into their herds, and to minimise the movement of animals from their herds to other farms. It is further requested that strict biosecurity measures are exercised through Biosecurity Officers at all places where animals gather for sales.

Any suspected case of FMD in susceptible animals must be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately. FMD affects cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and other cloven hoofed

animals (domestic and wild). The major clinical features of the disease include fever, lameness, and the appearance of vesicles and sores in the mouth, feet, teats and mammary glands. Pain and discomfort from these vesicles and sores lead to other signs of disease such as depression, excessive salivation, lameness, and reluctance to eat, move or stand.

FMD is a severe, highly contagious viral disease which affects livestock with significant economic impact. The disease does not affect human beings, hence the consumers have no reason for concern.

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

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