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Republic Of Botswana

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE

29 September, 2026

To: All Media Houses

PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK

Farmers, members of the public and stakeholders are informed that;

1. Following swift containment of the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in zone 3c-Maitengwe and zone 6b extensive surveillance is on-going to collect information for application to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) to regain-FMD free status with vaccination after twelve (12) months.

2. Emergency (three rounds) vaccination is complete in the containment zone and the outbreak has been effectively suppressed, with majority of the cases resolved except in Phitshane-Molopo, Mabule and Sekhutlhane extension areas. Construction of the second line of the containment zone fence is on-going following the completion of the first line.

3. The on-going extensive surveillance, in response to the Kgatleng outbreak has confirmed absence of FMD west of A1 and in zones 9, 10 and 13 along the border with Republic of South Africa (RSA). The outbreak is restricted to Kgatleng district in Oodi, Dikwididi and Mochudi east extension areas. Vaccination against FMD east of A1 in Kgatleng, Tlokweng and Ramotswa districts and areas west of A1 Dikgonnye, Kopong, Mmatseta, Kgope, Gakuto, Gamonwane, Gabane, Mmokolodi and Taung is on-going with good response.

4. Following the Kgatleng outbreak which highlighted the ongoing threat of FMD along the RSA border has led to the Department revising the FMD control strategy from containment zone to **"vaccination-to-live"** approach, by progressively seeking to attain official FMD freedom with vaccination along the RSA border. whilst developing a rezoning framework to swiftly regain FMD-free status without vaccination of all other affected zones.

5. Appropriate animal health control measures which include emergency vaccination, movement controls, surveillance, and biosecurity measures are being implemented to contain the disease and prevent spread to the rest of the country.

6. To improve market access, the department is currently negotiating sanitary (animal health) requirements with different countries some of which are at an advanced stage of conclusion.

7. The movement restrictions are therefore revised (see attached) and the public is advised to comply with the restrictions to avoid losing the gains that have been achieved so far.

The main changes of note in the protocol are;

(i) Slaughter of cattle and small stock for social events and own consumption in the rest of zone 11 outside the containment zone except in Kgatleng district is **allowed until the 5th October 2026.** Cattle are to be slaughtered at cattle post or farms where they are kept, the fresh products can be moved within the rest of zone 11 without a permit.

(i) Slaughter of cattle and small stock for social events and own consumption is allowed in the containment zone except in Phitshane-Molopo, Mabule and Sekhutlhane extension area where slaughter is **not allowed** due to the on-going outbreaks.

(ii) Movement of small stock meat into zone 11 from other zones except zones 1, 2, 3c-Maitengwe and 6b. is allowed with a permit.

(iii) Direct slaughter of cattle inside the containment zone from communal areas (except Mabule, Phitshane – Molopo and Sekhutlhane extension areas) is **allowed** after 30 day quarantine at approved slaughter facilities.

(iv) Movement of small stock derived fresh products is allowed into zone 11 form other zones except zones, 1,2, 3c – Maitengwe,6b, Kgatleng District and the containment zone.

The public is directed to the FMD dashboard URL for regular updates at URL: https://govbw.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6fd60f3bafc94814a8fa33576b8fd9bd

Farmers, members of the public and stakeholders are urged to comply with the disease prevention measures, remain vigilant and **report any signs** of illness in livestock to the nearest **Department of Veterinary Services or Botswana Police Service** offices.

The press release supersedes the previously announced movement protocols.

For more information, please contact the National Emergency Operations Centre; telephone 3934505 and 3934510 or toll free – 0800600130 or WhatsApp: 77702971 or email – fmdneoc@gov.bw or MoLA Public Relations Office at 3689151.

Dr Kobedi Segale
DIRECTOR OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Revised movement protocol

Zone	Movement controls
Zones 1 and 2	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. Remains unchanged 2. Movement of other cloven-hoofed animals except cattle from zone 1 to 2 is **allowed** under veterinary permit. 3. Movement of cloven-hoofed animals into zone 1 and 2 from zone 3b, 4a, 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 7, 6a, and 12 for rearing is **allowed** under permit and seal after after vaccination and quarantine. **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. Commodity-based trade (CBT) produced beef from BMC – Maun **allowed** to the rest of the country under Veterinary permit and seal. 2. **Allowed** under Veterinary permit and seal between zone 1 and zone 2. 3. Export **allowed** subject to importing country requirements 4. **Allowed** from zones 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7, 13 (Hukuntsi district), and FMD free compartments under permit and seal. 5. **Allowe**d from zone 12 directly into zone 2 without a permit.
Zones 6b and 3c - Maitengwe	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. Movement of cattle with at least two recent consecutive vaccinations is allowed under a Veterinary permit **between** 3c Maitengwe and 6b 2. Movement of cattle with at least two recent consecutive vaccinations is **allowed** under a Veterinary permit to zones 1 and 2. 3. Movement of other cloven hooved animals other than cattle **allowed** under Veterinary permit between zone 3c Maitengwe and 6b. 4. Movement of other cloven hooved animals other than cattle **allowed** under Veterinary permit to zones 1 and 2. 5. Cattle slaughter for social events is **allowed** in zones 3C Maitengwe and 6b. 6. Slaughter of other cloven hooved animals for social events including for own consumption is **allowed** in zone 3C Maitengwe and 6b.

	7. Movement of other cloven hooved animals other than cattle **allowed** into zones 6b and 3c Maitengwe under a Veterinary movement permit 8. Movement of cloven hooved animals out of zones 3c Maitengwe and 6b to other zones other than zones 1 and 2 is **not allowed**. 9. Movement for purposes of breeding or intensive keeping of animals is **allowed** without congregation of animals at buying points under movement permit. **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. Movement from slaughter facilities allowed to zones 1 and 2 under permit and seal. 2. Movement to other zones is **not allowed**. 3. Direct movement **allowed** into and between the zones without a permit.
Zones 3b, 4a, and 7	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. **Allowed** to zones 1 and 2 under permit for breeding (after vaccination and quarantine) and for direct slaughter. 2. Movement for both breeding and slaughter (including for social events) is **allowed** within the zone and into zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, 6a, and FMD free compartments under permit and seal. 3. Movement for purposes of breeding or intensive keeping of animals is **allowed.** Z **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. **Allowed** to other zones without a veterinary permit except to zones 11 and 13 where movement is under permit and seal. 2. Movement of fresh derived cloven-hoofed wildlife or game products allowed within a zone and into zones 1, 2, 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7 and 12 without a permit except to zones 11 and 13 where movement is under permit and seal. 3. **Not allowed** from other zones except from FMD free compartments or processed products.
Zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, and 6a	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. Movement for breeding and slaughter (including for social events and own consumption) within and between zones is **allowed** under permit. 2. Movement for purposes of breeding or intensive keeping of animals is **allowed** without congregation of animals (from different holdings) at buying points under movement permit.

	Fresh cloven hoofed derived products 1. **Allowed** within the zone and between zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5, and 6a without a movement permit. 2. Movement from zones 3b, 4a and 7 **allowed** without a permit. 3. Only movement from slaughter facilities **allowed** to zones 1, 2, 11, 12 and 13 under **permit and seal**. 4. Movement of fresh derived cloven-hoofed wildlife or game products **allowed** within a zone and between zones 3c (Dukwi), 4b, 5 and 6a without a permit except to zones 11 and 13 where movement is under **permit and seal**. 5. Transit **allowed** of cloven hoofed derive fresh products (livestock and game) through zones 3b, 4a and 7 under **permit and seal**. 6. **Allowed** from registered establishments in the containment zone produced under channelling protocol.
Zones 8, 9 and 10	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. **Prohibited** except (i) For direct slaughter within and between the zones under permit to a registered slaughter facility. (ii)Movement for breeding is allowed except within a 40 km radius from the Republic of South Africa (zones 9 and 10) where only movement for direct slaughter is allowed. (iii) Slaughter of cattle, small stock and wildlife for social events and own consumption is allowed provided such slaughter is made at the farm or cattle post where the animals are kept and the fresh products are consumed within the zones 2. Transit **allowed** under permit and seal. **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. **Not allowed** out of the zones to other zones. 2. **Allowed** within and between the zones without a permit 3. Transit **allowed** under permit and seal
Zone 12	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** 1. Movement for purposes of breeding or intensive keeping of animals is **allowed** without congregation of animals (from different holdings) at buying points under movement permit.

	2. **Allowed** for rearing into zones 1 and 2 (after vaccination and quarantine for cattle) 3. **Allowed** for direct slaughter within the zone and at designated abattoirs in zones 1, 2 and 13 **(Hukuntsi district)** under veterinary permit and seal. 4. Slaughter of domestic cloven hooved livestock is **allowed** for social events including for own consumption. 5. Hunting of cloven-hoofed animals **is allowed.** Movement of the derived fresh products is **allowed** within the zone without a permit and to zones 11 and 13 under **permit and seal**. **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. Allowed under permit and seal to zones 11 and 13 but without a permit to zones 1 and 2. 2. Allowed from registered FMD free compartments under permit and seal. 3. Commodity based trade (CBT) meat allowed from zone 2 and the containment zone under permit and seal. 4. Transit of fresh products from zones 2 and containment zone (CBT compliant product), 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, and 7 allowed under permit and seal. 5. Movement of fresh derived cloven-hoofed wildlife or game products allowed within the zone and to zones 1, 2, 11 and 13 under permit and seal. 6. Allowed from registered meat processing establishment from the containment zone processed under channelling protocol.
Zones 11 and 13	**1.1 <u>Proposed containment zone</u>** **BAITS registered holdings (pigs and cattle) subject to the following conditions** **1.1.1 Holdings vaccinated against foot and mouth disease** (i) The cattle remained, for at least three months in a holding and have not been in contact with other FMD susceptible animals outside the holding and have been vaccinated at least twice with the last vaccination not more than six months, not less than one month prior to slaughter in a: (a) DVS approved quarantine station for a minimum of 30 days; **OR** (b) Holding, within a 10-kilometre radius of which FMD has not occurred in the last 30 days. (ii) The cattle or pigs are inspected and showed no signs of FMD on the date of loading to a designated abattoir.

(iii) There should have been no cases of FMD in the holding in the last 30 days.
(iv) All cattle should be traceable through BAITS and residency verified through BAITS.
(v) Transit of cattle to the quarantine or designated abattoir is **allowed** under a channelling protocol.

1.1.2 Holdings exempted from FMD vaccination

(i) The cattle remained, for at least three months in a holding and have not been in contact with other FMD susceptible animals outside the holding and no cases of FMD occurred in the holding prior to slaughter in a:

(a) DVS approved quarantine facility for a minimum of 30 days **OR**
(b) Holding, within a 10-kilometre radius of which FMD has not occurred in the last 30 days.

(ii) All cattle should be traceable through BAITS and residency verified through BAITS.
(iii) Transit of cattle to the quarantine or to designated abattoir is **allowed** under a channelling protocol.

1.1.3 Cattle from communal areas in the containment zone

For animals to be eligible for slaughter , they must meet the following conditions;

(i) The animals **are not from** Mabule, Phitshane-Molopo and Sekhutlhane extension areas.
(ii) No FMD has occurred in the crush in the last 30 days
(iii) The animals have been vaccinated atleast two (2) times with the last vaccination not more than six months and not less than one month prior to slaughter. The animals should bear atleast two (2) FMD vaccination brands (V).
(iv) The animals should not have missed anyof the vaccination rounds.
(v) The animals should be Ear tagged with BAITS ear tags and traceable to the holding in BAITS3'.
(vi) The animals have undergone quarantine (after meeting conditions i,ii, iii ,iv and v above) in a DVS approved quarantine facility for 30 days and has not shown any signs of FMD.
(vii) Movement of cattle to the quarantine facility and to designated abattoirs is **allowed** by transport facilities (no trekking of animals).

1.1.4. Social Slaughter and Own consumption in the Containement Zone

Slaughter of cattle, wildlife and small stock for Social events and own consumption is **allowed except in Mabule, Phitsane-Molopo and Sekhutlhane extension areas** provided such slaughter is made at the farm or cattle post where the animals are kept and the fresh products are consumed within the containment zone.

Transport & Slaughter Protocols

i. Transported in **cleaned** and **disinfected** (soda or virkon-S) vehicles to a designated abattoir under a **veterinary movement permit** and **seal**.
ii. The animals to be transported directly from the quarantine or holding to a designated abattoir under channelling protocols to BMC Lobatse/Tsabong or a designated abattoir (approved for maturation and deboning) for cattle and a registered piggery abattoir in zone 11, without coming in contact with other FMD susceptible animals.
iii. Animals to be subjected to both ante and post mortem inspections with favourable results.

Pork - The carcasses are released subject to a minimum of 24 hours of refrigeration.

Beef –

Carcasses derived from quarantined animals should have passed the maturation and deboning process for release as a fresh deboned meat to the rest of the country under permit and seal. Carcasses that have failed maturation should be deboned and released for consumption within the containment zone or heat treated and canned for release to the rest of the country without a permit.

1.2 <u>Rest of zone 11 excluding the proposed containment zone</u>

Live cloven-hoofed animals

1. Movement is prohibited including from holdings where cattle and pigs were intensively kept.
2. Slaughter of Cattle, small stock, wildlife and pigs for social events and own consumption is **allowed** provided such slaughter is made at the farm or cattle post where the animals are kept and the fresh products are consumed within zone 11 except for Kgatleng district. **allowed not later than the 5th October 2026**

Fresh cloven hoofed derived products

1. Movement out of the zone **not allowed**.
2. **Allowed** under permit and seal from zones 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7, 12, 13 (Hukuntsi) and registered FMD free compartments. Allowed without a permit once the products are within zones 11 and 13.
3. Small stock meat allowed from zones 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7, 12, 13 (Hukuntsi) and registered FMD free compartments without a movement permit.
4. Movement of meat from BMC allowed within zone 11 without a permit but to the rest of the country movement allowed under permit and seal.

Other risk material

1. Movement of fodder, grasses, trophies, skins (dikgole), and hooves out of zone 11 and 13 is **prohibited**.
2. Movement of fodder and grasses for feeding cloven-hooved animals is **allowed** into zone 11 and 13.
3. Movement of industrially produced animal feeds from a registered feed manufacturers is **allowed out** of zone 11 and 13.

1.3 <u>Rest of zone 13 excluding the proposed containment zone</u>

Live cloven-hoofed animals

Movement **prohibited** except as indicated below

(a) Hukuntsi district

(i) Movement of cloven-hoofed livestock a**llowed** for slaughter for social events and own consumption.

(ii) **Allowed** for direct slaughter of cloven-hoofed livestock at a licensed slaughter facility within the district.

(iii) **Allowed** from zone 12 for direct slaughter at a designated abattoir.

	(b) Tsabong district (i) **Allowed** for direct slaughter of small stock at a licensed slaughter facility within the district. (ii) Slaughter of Cattle, wildlife and small stock for social events and own consumption is **allowed** provided such slaughter is made at the farm or cattle post where the animals are kept and the fresh products are consumed within zone 13. (iii) Slaughter of cattle and wildlife is **allowed not later than the 5th October 2026** **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** 1. **Allowed** within a district without a movement permit. 2. **Allowed** under permit and seal from zones 3b, 3c (Dukwi), 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 7, 12 and registered FMD - free compartments. 3. Movement of meat derived from slaughtered small stock within Tsabong district is **not allowed out** of the district. 4. Movement of meat derived from livestock slaughtered at designated slaughter facilities within Hunkutsi district **allowed** to zones 1, 2, 11 and 13. 5. The carcasses that are to be transported for more than an hour after release from the abattoir must be subjected to a minimum of 24 hours of refrigeration. 6. Hunting of cloven-hoofed animals **is allowed only** in Hukuntsi district**.** Movement of the derived fresh products is **allowed** within zone 13 without a permit and to zones 11 under **permit and seal**. 7. **Allowed** from registered establishments in the containment zone produced under channelling protocol.
Zone 17	**Live cloven-hoofed animals** Movement into and out of the zone remains **prohibited**. **Fresh cloven hoofed derived products** Movement remains prohibited except into the zone without a permit.

Exportation and importation including transit.	Allowed subject to transit, import or export requirements and in line with this protocol.
Note:	1. Fresh products – includes any cloven-hoofed derived animal product which has not been treated to inactivate the foot and mouth disease virus. The products include untreated fresh trophies such skins, hooves, bones, etc. 2. Processed products include but not limited to thoroughly cooked meat, pasteurized and UHT milk, madila (sour milk), brittle dry biltong (segwapa), precooked meat products. 3. Vacuum packing is not considered processing of fresh products. 4. Fresh products release from the slaughter facilities shall be subject to the requirements and transportation in accordance with the Livestock and Meat Industries Act CAB 36:03 of 2007. 5. Slaughter facility operators should ensure the appropriate number of animals is allowed to the slaughter facilities by issuing of quotas.