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Media release

Immediate release

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Urgent Notice: Strict Adherence to Biosecurity Measures for Sales Agents and Farmers

The Department of Agriculture and the Directorate of Animal Health are concerned about reports of sales agents from various agricultural companies visiting farms within and outside the Disease Management Area (DMA) amidst the ongoing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak. While we understand the need for agents to conduct business, these visits pose a significant biosecurity risk that could jeopardise the efforts to control the spread of the disease.

We urge all agricultural companies and their agents to explore alternative methods of engaging with clients, such as virtual meetings, phone calls, or other non-contact means, to minimise the risk of disease transmission. Where on-site visits are unavoidable, strict compliance with biosecurity protocols is mandatory. Farmers are also reminded of their responsibility to enforce stringent biosecurity measures for all visitors, including sales agents to protect their livestock and farming operations from potential FMD exposure. Please refer to the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Biosecurity and Risk Mitigation recommendations below.

The cooperation of all stakeholders is imperative. FMD is a controlled animal disease under the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No 35 of 1984), which mandates certain control measures, such as isolation and movement restrictions, enforced by Veterinary Services.



Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development · Departement van Landbou, Grondhervorming en Landelike Ontwikkeling · Muhasho wa zwa Vhulimi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavu na Mveledziso ya Mahayani, uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba Nokuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya · Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya · Litiko Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba Nekutfutukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni · UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya · Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae · Lefapha la Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae · Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabollo ya Metsemagae · ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle



Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Biosecurity and Risk Mitigation recommendations:

1. **Visitor Control:** Implement strict visitor protocols, which must include cleaning and disinfection procedures, requirements for protective clothing, and restricted access to livestock areas. Maintain a daily visitor log, including the last contact with livestock.
2. **Vehicle and Equipment Disinfection:** Ensure that **ALL** vehicles and equipment entering and exiting the premises are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, and sanitised. As an additional measure, spray the wheels and undercarriage of livestock vehicles.
 - The WOAHA Technical Disease Card for FMD recommends the following active ingredients for virus inactivation:
 - Sodium hydroxide (2%)
 - Sodium carbonate (4%)
 - Citric acid (0.2%)
 - Acetic acid (2%)
 - Sodium hypochlorite (3%)
 - Potassium peroxymonosulphate/sodium chloride (1%)
 - Chlorine dioxide
 - Please consult your supplier for more information. Only registered products must be used. Given the current risk of FMD, the package insert of the product should indicate that it is registered specifically for inactivation of FMD the virus.
3. **Collaboration with Veterinary Authorities:** Work closely with veterinary authorities to report any suspected cases of FMD and implement control measures in line with national regulations and guidelines.



For more information, contact:

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