



MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

The Ministry of Local Government and Traditional Affairs together with Councils are working closely with the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture, and other stakeholders, and have mounted a coordinated multi-stakeholder response to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease, which has already been detected in some parts of the country. This urgent action underscores the Government's commitment to protect the Agricultural sector and its value to the national economy, and preserve overall livelihoods of rural Botswana as well as help achieve food security and public health.

Key Measures to be Implemented

- **Collection of Matimela**

Councils in affected areas will undertake Intensive Matimela Collection Campaigns. Teams will be deployed to recover stray livestock across these districts and any animals without clear branding or identification will be taken into custody and treated as Matimela. They will be driven to the nearest Matimela facility or designated holding area for safekeeping. Notifications of collected livestock will be posted at Kgotla offices, Council offices, Notice boards and on Council Websites.

- **Suspension of Livestock Claims**

Claiming of Matimela from facilities is **not permitted** under the current high alert status. The measure is meant to enforce the movement restrictions to help prevent the spread of disease.

- **Reduced Holding Periods**

To minimise disease spread, the holding period for Matimela is reduced from three (3) months to **no more than 14 days**. This enables swift disposal in line with response measures. The adjustment is made in accordance with Section 23 of the Matimela Act.

For additional information, please contact the Ministry's Communication Office at 3658423/8496, or via email to bathopele-pr@gov.bw.

Thank you.



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