



## **NEWSFLASH FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

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Please see below a press release on an outbreak of FMD in the FMD free zone of the Vhembe district of Limpopo. Abattoirs are required to ensure that the origin of livestock can be confirmed as part of the Declaration of Health and Origin in terms of Section 79 (2) of Red Meat regulations (No 1072) of the Meat Safety Act (act 40 of 2000).

The South Africa's FMD zones as well as the Vhembe district is also illustrated herewith.

### **Media release**

#### **Immediate release**

**Date: 08 January 2019**

### **POSITIVE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE RESULTS IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has been informed today, of positive laboratory results for Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in cattle in the Vhembe District of Limpopo. Samples were collected during a disease investigation after reports of cattle with lameness were received. The positive location is just outside the FMD Control Zone in the Free Zone without vaccination.

A team of experts from the Department and the Limpopo Veterinary Services is on the ground conducting further investigations to verify the results and determine the extent of the outbreak. The control measures will be determined by the findings of this investigation.

The matter has been reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on Monday (7 January 2019). As a result of this development, the official OIE recognised FMD-free status of South Africa is temporarily suspended. Consequently, any exports where FMD free zone attestation is required, cannot be certified.

FMD is a severe, highly contagious viral disease which affects livestock with significant economic impact. The disease affects cattle, pigs (domestic and wild), sheep, goats, and other cloven hooved animals. The disease does not affect human beings. Signs of disease may include depressed animals, sores in the mouth of animals causing reluctance to eat and lameness. Any suspected case of the disease in animals must be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately.

The affected area is under quarantine and no movement of animals and animal products are allowed. Farmers further away from the outbreak are cautioned to observe bio-security measures – not to allow any new animals into their herds, and to minimise the movement of their own herds to other farms.

For more information, contact:

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