



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FISHERIES WATER AND LAND REFORM

28 April 2026

MEDIA RELEASE (For Immediate Release)

Namibia Has Not Recorded a Case of Foot and Mouth Disease

The Ministry wishes to clarify that Namibia has not recorded any case of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), and there is currently no outbreak of the disease in the country.

This clarification follows a public notice issued by Windhoek Gymnasium High School regarding a case of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD). The two diseases are often confused because of their similar names, but they are completely different conditions and should not be mistaken for one another.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease is a common viral illness that mainly affects young children. It spreads from person to person through close contact, coughing, sneezing, or contaminated surfaces. Symptoms may include fever, mouth sores, and a rash on the hands and feet. HFMD is a human illness and is not linked to livestock or animal health.

Foot and Mouth Disease, on the other hand, is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, and certain wildlife species. It is an animal disease with potential economic consequences for the livestock sector, but it is not a human disease.

The Ministry therefore urges the public to remain calm and to avoid spreading misinformation. The notice by Windhoek Gymnasium High School relates strictly to Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease in humans, and should not be confused with Foot and Mouth Disease in animals.

Namibia remains vigilant in protecting animal health through ongoing surveillance, veterinary controls, and biosecurity measures.

ENDS

For media inquiries, please contact: Romeo Muyunda, Deputy Director, Romeo.Muyunda@mawlr.gov.na; +264814523221.

Issued by

Romeo Muyunda

Spokesperson/ Deputy Director: Public Relations & Information Services