

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

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MAWF MINISTER'S MINISTERIAL STATEMENT, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 30 JUNE 2015: NAMIBIA'S OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF ANIMAL DISEASE STATUS BY THE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE).

- 1. At the 83rd General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates held on 29 May 2015, a number of countries or zones of countries obtained official recognition for <u>disease free status</u> and also recognition for <u>official control programmes for disease</u>, such as Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Contagious Bovine Pleuroneumonia (CBPP or Lungsickness), Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), etc.
- 2. On 29 May 2015, during the General Session, Namibia was awarded three certificates for the following animal diseases:

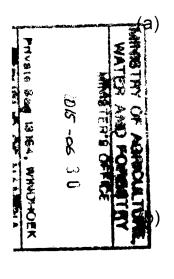
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The area <u>south</u> of the Veterinary Cordon Fence is now officially recognized by the OIE as <u>free from Pest des Petitis</u> Ruminantes (PPR). PPR is defined as an infection of <u>domestic sheep and goats</u> with PPR Virus. This disease was never reported in Namibia, though.

OIE <u>endorsed</u> official control programme for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for the <u>protection zone</u> of Namibia.

- (c) OIE <u>endorsed</u> official control programme for Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) known as Lung sickness for the <u>protection zone</u> of Namibia. Namibia is the first country in the world to be awarded a certificate by OIE for <u>official endorsement</u> of its control programme for CBPP (Lungsickness).
- 3. Namibia is then expected to continue implementing the OIE endorsed control programmes, in order to eventually achieve freedom from FMD and Lungsickness in the Northern Communal Areas (NCA's) of Namibia with exception of Zambezi, in the case of FMD, and also submit reports every year in November, to the OIE on the progress made with the implementation of these official control programmes.
- 4. The official recognition of disease status of an OIE Member Country is of great significance, for <u>international trade</u> in animal and animal products, and constitutes one of the most important legal links between the OIE and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the framework of the WTO Agreement, on the

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Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), which entered in to force in 1995. The official agreement between OIE and WTO further confirmed the OIE's mandate to recognize disease/pest free areas based on the SPS Agreement.

- 5. A country may either lose or enhance its commercial attractiveness in the eyes of potential or existing importing countries, depending on official recognition of its disease status.
- 6. By acquiring and maintaining its disease free status, a country also demonstrates transparency and helps to promote animal and public health worldwide, thereby gaining the <u>trust</u> of its trading partners and of the international community.
- 7. Thank you very much Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members of the National Assembly.

Jenn MUTORWA, MP

MINISTER

