



PRESS RELEASE

SUSPECTED OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN LILONGWE DISTRICT

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development wishes to inform the general public that there is a suspected outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease that has been reported in Nyanja, Chitsime, Mkwinda, Chigonthi, Demera and Malingunde Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) in Lilongwe District.

Foot and Mouth Disease is a highly contagious viral disease that mostly affects cattle. On-going preliminary investigations conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development have established a total number of 217 clinical cases as follows:

99 cases registered in sections of Nyanja, Chitsime and Mkwinda EPAs. 64 cases in 4 kholas within Chigonthi EPA and 54 cases in Thawale EPA in 7 kholas. Fresh cases were also recorded from several kholas around Dickson in Malingunde EPA. The affected EPA's have an estimated total population of 45,000 cattle currently at risk.

In conformity with the Control and Animal Diseases Act (Cap 66:02), and the World Animal Health organisation guidelines, the Ministry wishes to inform the general public that it has with

immediate effect instituted the following measures **within the affected areas:**

- **Temporary suspension of all livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and pig) markets**
- **Temporary ban of all livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and pig) slaughters**
- **Restriction of livestock and livestock products movement from and in the affected areas.**
- **Ban on issuance of livestock movement permits from the affected areas**
- **Instituted roadblocks and patrols at strategic points**
- **Intensified awareness of the livestock community on the outbreak.**

The Ministry would, therefore, like to inform the general public that it is working to contain the outbreak and will continue to provide updates. The Ministry is further urging livestock farmers and the public to cooperate with its Veterinary Officers and the Malawi Police Service during the implementation of the measures.

For further information and clarification, please contact Dr. Patrick Chikungwa on 0 888 371 509 or Dr. Gilson Njunga on 0 995 910 460 of the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development.

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WATER DEVELOPMENT**
04/09/2018