



# GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

## OF THE

# REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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WINDHOEK - 1 August 2017

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## Government Notice

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### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

No. 201

2017

PUBLICATION OF EMERGENCY RESTRICTION NOTICE PROHIBITING IMPORTATION  
OR ENTRY INTO NAMIBIA OF LIVE POULTRY, POULTRY PRODUCTS, BIRDS,  
OSTRICHES AND OSTRICH PRODUCTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND BELGIUM:  
ANIMAL HEALTH ACT, 2011

Under section 11(3) of the Animal Health Act, 2011 (Act No. 1 of 2011), I publish the emergency restriction notice issued on 23 June 2017 to prohibit the importation, entry and in transit movement into or around Namibia of live poultry, poultry products, birds, ostriches and ostrich products from South Africa and Belgium as set out in the Schedule.

**A.M. MASEKE**  
**CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER**

## SCHEDULE

**VETERINARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION****SUSPENSION ON IMPORT AND IN TRANSIT MOVEMENT OF LIVE POULTRY, BIRDS AND POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND BELGIUM FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)**

The Chief Veterinary Officer hereby would like to inform importers and the Namibian public about the suspension of import and in transit movement of live poultry, birds, poultry products, ostriches and ostrich products from South Africa and Belgium due to the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 in poultry. The suspension is in line with the Animal Health Act, (Act 1 of 2011).

Since the incubation period of the disease is 21 days as set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the suspension takes effect 21 days prior to the date of start of event. All previously issued import and in transit permits are hereby cancelled and recalled with immediate effect.

Table showing countries recently affected by HPAI in poultry

COUNTRY	DATE OF START OF EVENT	DATE OF START OF SUSPENSION
Belgium	10-Jun-17	20-May-17
South Africa	19-Jun-17	29-May-17

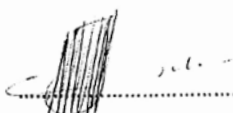
Cooked poultry meat products from South Africa for commercial purposes may still be imported into Namibia under the revised veterinary import permit.

Avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds caused by type A strains of the influenza virus which occurs worldwide. All birds are thought to be susceptible to infection with avian influenza, though some species are more resistant to infection than others. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is characterized by the sudden onset, severe illness, and rapid death, with a mortality rate that can approach 100%. Common clinical signs include swelling and purple discolouration of the head, comb and wattle, swelling and red discolouration of the feet, bleeding of internal organs and muscles, greenish diarrhea, twisting of the neck, staggering movement and paralysis of wings and legs.

Disease caused by some strains of the following subtypes: H5N1, H7N9 may be transmitted to humans. Humans can be infected with the virus via the eyes, nose, mouth through handling and coming into close contact with infected poultry/birds, and/or through the handling of their saliva, mucus and faeces of infected birds and through consumption of poultry products from infected poultry.

Importers are urged to contact the Veterinary Import/Export Office for further information on the countries currently affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

Dr. Vistorina Benhard at telephone: 061-303150 or email [vbenhard@hotmail.com](mailto:vbenhard@hotmail.com)

  
 Dr AM. Maseke  
 Chief Veterinary Officer

