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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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SUSPECTED OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) IN NGAMILAND

COMMUNICATION FROM BOTSWANA

The following communication, received on 22 September 2017, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Botswana.

1. WTO Members are hereby informed of the suspected outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Namanyane crush, Sehithwa extension area in Ngamiland district. This follows reports from farmers of sighting cattle that were showing suspicious signs or symptoms. Officials from the Department of Veterinary Services followed up the allegations and found five animals that were showing signs that are consistent with the disease.

2. As a result of these findings the slaughter and movement of all cloven hoofed animals and their fresh products within and out of the district are suspended until further notice.

3. Export of all meat products from export slaughter and processing plants produced in the last 30 days in Ngamiland is suspended. Meat already shipped therefore does not pose a health threat. Both the OIE and trading partners have been notified.

4. Farmers have been urged and required to cooperate with ministry officials and round up animals. They are also expected to report any sick cattle without delay.

5. WTO Members will be informed of any developments as more information becomes available.
