

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** January 10,2020

**Report Number:** SF2020-0003

**Report Name:** South Africa Unable to Stifle Latest Outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease

**Country:** South Africa - Republic of

**Post:** Pretoria

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

South Africa was in the process of recovering from the January 2019 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak when a new incident occurred on November 1 in the Molemole District of Limpopo. Although South Africa was able to put systems in place to ensure that the January 2019 FMD outbreak was under control, they failed to convince the World Organization for Animal Health to reinstitute the country 's status of FMD-free zone. The recent outbreak led Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique to ban imports of live animals and red meat from South Africa.

## Background

On November 1, 2019, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development notified the South African Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR) formerly known as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) of the clinical signs of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in a herd of cattle on a farm in the Molemole district of Limpopo Province. DARDLR's Veterinary Research Transbound Animal Disease Program collected samples and FMD was confirmed on November 1, 2019. As of December 4, 2019, the infection was confirmed on eleven commercial properties in Capricorn, Vhembe and Mopani districts in Limpopo Province. There are seven reported cases in the Capricorn districts, two in Vhembe and two in Mopani district. The infected properties include commercial farms, feedlots, associated abattoirs and one community farm. Prior to the outbreak, Capricorn district was considered an FMD-free zone of South Africa and is adjacent to the Vhembe area where an outbreak occurred in January 2019. See (FMD Outbreak Leads to Bans of Red Meat from South Africa; <https://gain.fas.usda.gov/#/>). As a result of the new outbreak announcement; Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have banned imports from South Africa.

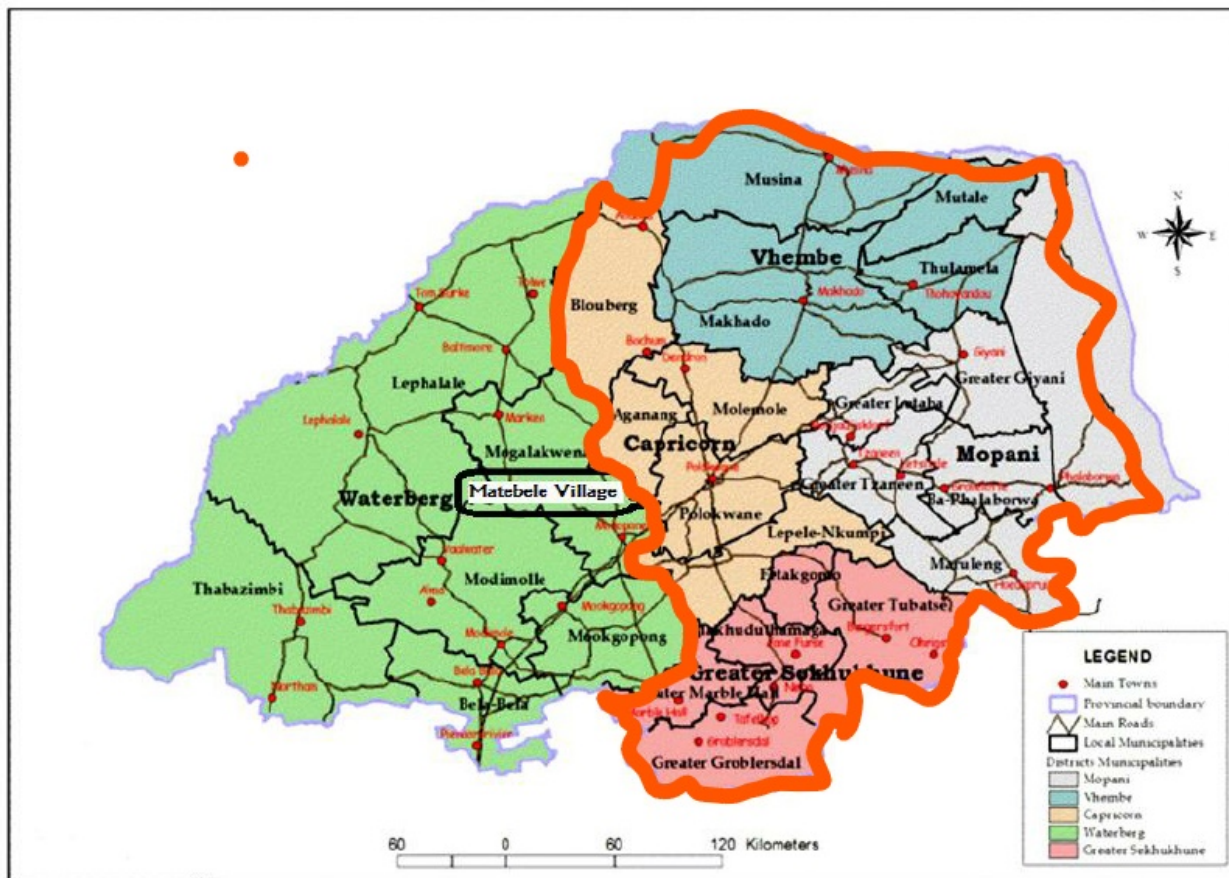
The DARDLR's Veterinary Services unit has quarantined the area and continues to monitor the production facilities, feedlots and abattoirs in the Molemole district and adjacent areas. A temporary ban on auctions and shows of cloven-hooved animals has been instituted in all nine provinces until further notice.

The recent outbreak is a setback to the beef industry which was recovering from the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak that occurred in January 2019. In May 2019, the South African government announced that the outbreak was under control, but they have since been unable to convince the World Organization for Animal Health to reinstitute the country's status as an FMD-free zone.

Subsequent to South Africa losing the OIE recognized FMD free zone status the government negotiated agreements with trade partners to allow export of heat-treated meat, deboned and matured beef, salted hides and skins and livestock embryos. Most trade partners have retained the negotiated agreements for these commodities.

Figure 1 below shows Limpopo province's map. The red line shows Vhembe, Capricorn and Mopani districts, which are currently FMD-affected areas.

**Figure 1: Map of Limpopo Province Districts**



## South Africa 's Red Meat Exports

During January to October 2019 South Africa exported 25,341 tons of red meat (fresh, chilled or frozen) valued \$100 million to the world, this reflects a 20% decrease compared to the same period last year due to the bans instituted by countries who imported beef from South Africa. Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique accounted for 16% of South Africa 's red meat exports in volume terms during January to October 2019 (Table 1). During the same period, South Africa exported 16,765 live cattle valued at \$15.9million. The live cattle exports from South Africa to the world have also decreased by 10% when compared with January to October 2018 exports.

**Table 1: South Africa 's Red Meat Exports (Tons)**

Partner	2016	2017	2018	2018(January-October)	2019(January-October)
China	2	1,751	7,511	5,017	3,198
Lesotho	5,076	5,591	4,186	3,355	2,839
United Arab Emirates	5,500	5,839	3,945	3,275	2,548
Kuwait	4,306	3,268	3,487	2,894	2,479
Mozambique	5,356	3,656	3,618	2,806	2,469
Swaziland	3,606	3,567	3,355	2,574	2,275
Jordan	3,868	2,549	1,807	1,458	1,998
Botswana	1,358	1,384	1,744	1,366	1,538
Namibia	2,470	2,831	2,170	1,470	1,306
Vietnam	6,065	1,889	1,289	1,095	1,068
Qatar	851	800	571	443	609
Hong Kong	2,909	2,902	1,325	1,200	545
Egypt	753	597	580	449	411
Other Countries	7,144	5,189	3,704	3,116	2,058
Total	49,264	41,813	39,292	30,518	25,341

**Source: SARS****Attachments:**

No Attachments.