

RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENT WITH REGARD TO THE ALLEGED IMPORTATION OF FMD STRICKEN CATTLE FROM TANZANIA AND COUNTERFEIT DECATIX FROM ZIMBABWE

Introduction

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects cloven hoofed animals both domestic and wild animals. The domestic animals that FMD affects are cattle, goats, sheep and pigs. The wild animals that are affected are the antelopes, buffaloes and wild pigs. In Uganda, the commonest FMD serotypes are A, O, SAT 1 and 2, and these are the ones that are included in the vaccine used.

After a short incubation of 1-2 days, FMD infected animals develop a fever, vesicles develop on the tongue, dental pads and the gums, animals present with drooling saliva or froth around the mouth and shake their heads. Lameness appears concurrently as vesicles develop at the interdigital pad, heel buds. Vesicles may also develop on the teats. The vesicles burst and form ulcers which heal in about 3-4 weeks. The affected animals stop eating, lose weight, milk yield drops, abortions may occur, and calves may die.

FMD control in Uganda targets cattle. This leaves the other susceptible domestic and wild animals as reservoirs of the virus. FMD is endemic (occurs all the time) in Uganda as a result of the virus surviving in the susceptible animals and in the environment

Transmission

FMD is a highly contagious disease which gets transmitted when an infected animal gets in contact with susceptible animals, through aerosols, and through fomites (vehicles, clothes etc)

Prevention of the Disease in Cattle

1. FMD control is a public good, therefore Government procures 500, 000 doses of the FMD vaccine annually and distributes to the Districts on request. Local Governments are responsible for requisitioning, collection and safe storage of the vaccine and for mobilizing and sensitive animal owners as well as vaccination susceptible cattle. Vaccination should be repeated every after six months however, due to inadequate funds, the procured doses can't cover the over 14.8 million cattle
2. Institution of quarantine restrictions and regulating animal movement control for livestock and livestock products. Local Governments are responsible for enforcing the Quarantine measures instituted by the Ministry as per the Animal Diseases Act Cap 38.
3. An effective strategy for combating FMD in Uganda requires strong collaboration and coordination between the different stakeholders (technical people, politicians and local leaders
4. Sensitization of the public on vaccination and the relevancy of early disease reporting by farmers to the Veterinary officers as well as compliance to Quarantine restrictions.

FMD outbreak in Sembabule

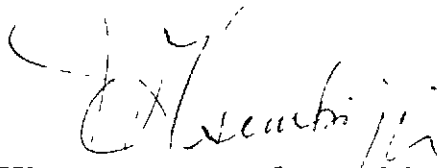
The Ministry received reports of an FMD outbreak in Mitima village, Mitima parish, Mitima sub-county Sembabule District. Samples were submitted and tested at the National Animal Disease Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC). All samples tested positive

Consequently, the Ministry imposed quarantine restrictions on Mitima sub-county and Lugusulu livestock market on 7th August 2018 as per the Animal Disease Act, Cap38.

For the alleged importation of the FMD infected cattle by a one Mulindwa, a resident of Mitima sub-county, the Ministry has never

issued him with an import permit for the said animals. Following the allegations, the Ministry has initiated an investigation into this issue to get the right information within 2 weeks. The findings of the investigations will be shared with the House at an appropriate time.

On the issue of the alleged importation of Decatix, the Ministry is working with the National Drug Authority to investigate the allegations.



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In any correspondence on
this subject please quote ADM/48/175/01

13th August 2019

The Clerk
Parliament of Uganda
KAMPALA



RESPONSES TO PARLIAMENT

Herewith attached please find responses to the following issues:

1. Unscrupulous headteachers and directors of schools who defraud students, parents and guardians of registration fees.
2. Lack of a Secondary School on Lolwe Islands

This is for your further management.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Yusuf Mukoka", with the initials "PP" written to the left.

Yusuf Mukoka
FOR: PERMANENT SECRETARY