

## **CATTLE FROM RAKAI AND KYOTERA DISTRICTS INTERCEPTED AT LUKAYA ON FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2019 BY MINISTRY OF SECURITY**

A total of 116 heads of cattle were intercepted on Friday 29 March 2019 at Lukaya Animal Check point (ACP) by operatives from Ministry of Security (represented by Mr. Rugyenda) and Anti-Stock Theft Unit (represented by Mr. Mwetesi), and by Sunday 31 March two of the animals had died. They were sent to Mutukula in Kyotera district where there is an animal holding ground in which they can access adequate feed and water. The reason for interception is on suspicion that the cattle originated from Tanzania.

According to DVOs of Kyotera and Rakai the animal had letters of clearance from the LC 1, GISO and the Police from the area of origin. On inspection by the Kyotera veterinarian, the animals were confirmed free from any notifiable disease.

The responsible cattle traders, LC 1 (Kamuli village) and the Veterinarian who issued the permit are currently in jail.

According to O/C Operations at Mutukula, the cattle were accompanied by the LC1 and GISO letters, as required by the Guidelines (copy attached).

The LC1 and the veterinarian were invited to Mutukula Police station to make statement and they were instead put in prison.

### **MANDATE TO RESTRICT ANIMAL MOVEMENT**

Colleagues, Animal and animal product movement has high level of risk to transmit animal diseases from one place to another and from one country to another. Animal and animal product movement control contributes to animal health, food safety, and competitiveness of animals and animal products.

Animal disease prevention, control and eradication is a major factor in sustainable increase of animal production and profitability. Animal and animal product movement control therefore is key in the control of spread of animal diseases, to protect human and animal health, public health, animal welfare and the environment.

Honorable members, the power to restrict of animal movement is fully bestowed on the Commissioner Animal Health by the Animal diseases Act Cap 38 and Cattle Traders' Act Cap. 43. Under these laws Commissioner Animal Health is empowered to:

1. Register and license cattle traders
2. Inspect and certify animals and animal products before they move, and inspect them at animal check points along stock routes to enforce compliance
3. Issue animal movement permit/health certificate to allow animals and/or animal products to move from one sub-county to another
4. Hold new arrivals of animals and animal products under quarantine or in an animal holding ground to check them for disease before they are allowed to mix with others

Colleagues, to take services closer to the people, the Commissioner delegated the above functions 1, 2 and 3 to the district Veterinary Officers.

## **COLLABORATIONS**

1. MAAIF currently has a dedicated Police Unit to support enforcement of veterinary legislations, including compliance with animal movement control rules and regulations. The Police do not work alone. In all

missions which include stock route patrols, border patrols and enforcement, the technical team takes the lead and the Police only come in where there is resistance of the affected individual or group. The MAAIF policemen are under the command of the Police for disciplinary measures but are answerable to MAAIF as far as MAAIF issues are concerned.

2. Collaboration with the Ministry of Security to back MAAIF enforcement in dealing with those violating quarantine restrictions and animal movement control efforts.

Similar to the arrangement between MAAIF and the Police, the technical team should be allowed to take the lead and the Security personnel come in where there is resistance.

This relationship is currently

## **PROCEDURES FOR CONTROLLING ANIMAL MOVEMENTS**

Colleagues, when controlling animal movement the technical personnel have to consider the following:

- (i) to conduct both physical and laboratory examination of animals and/or animal products to identify any signs of disease
- (ii) to disinfect and/or decontaminate/fumigate carrier vessels, premises, animals, people, equipment and goods from an infected to a non-infected area to eliminate any disease causing organisms.
- (iii) to vaccinate the animals and build their immunity before a disease outbreak and also before they are moved to a new territory.

- (iv) to hold live animals in a designated quarantine station or animal holding ground for a mandatory period of 21-30 days before they are allowed to mix with animals that already exist in a given territory. During the quarantine period, the animals are subjected to daily physical and laboratory testing to detect and eliminate any infection or contamination.
- (v) to impound animals and animal products that are deemed to present a significant risk of transmitting animal diseases.

**GUIDELINES ISSUED BY COMMISSIONER ANIMAL HEALTH TO ENHANCE COMPLIANCE WITH QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS AND FACILITATE TRADE FROM NON-INFECTED SUB-COUNTIES**

1. Farmers and other animal owners or handlers shall report all suspected sick to the nearest Veterinary Officer and/or Administrative Officer
2. The veterinary officer shall immediately visit the farm or any place where the sick animal is to physically examine the suspect case and also guide the farmer, animal owner or handler on how to prevent spread of the disease to other animals.
3. The (District) Veterinary Officer and/or Administrative Officer will report any suspected cases of Foot and Mouth Diseases and other notifiable diseases to Commissioner Animal Health.
4. The Commissioner Animal Health will send a team to the affected sub-county to pick samples which will be tested in the laboratory to confirm presence or absence of disease.
5. When a notifiable disease is confirmed, the Commissioner Animal Health will impose full Quarantine Restrictions on the affected sub-

county, in writing. This quarantine shall affect animals and animal products such as raw milk, meat, hides and skins, dung or manure, horns and horn products and hooves

6. The District Administrative Officers will pronounce the quarantine and guide the public on how to comply with the restrictions
7. No animals and animal products shall be allowed to move into, out of and through the affected sub-county. Only processed milk and milk products (pasteurized milk, UHT milk powder, yogurt, ice cream) will be allowed to move.
8. Strategic animal check points will be established at all routes leading into and out of the sub-county and will be manned by the community with technical support for the District Veterinary Officer
9. All people, items, vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles and other goods moving out of the affected sub-county will be disinfected using *Virukill* disinfectant, diluted according to manufacturer's guidelines.
10. Only markets at least a radius of 20km or more from the affected sub-county, will be allowed to operate,
11. All livestock markets within the affected sub-county and those that are outside the affected sub-county but within less than 20km radius from the affected sub-county will be strictly closed until the Commissioner pronounces lifting the quarantine.
12. The District Veterinary Officer of the affected district will promptly report any new cases of the disease to the Commissioner Animal Health and submit samples to the district laboratory and National Animal Disease Diagnosis and Epidemiology Center for disease surveillance purposes.

13. All districts will operationalize their laboratories to aid early disease detection, rapid response and active disease surveillance to generate scientific evidence for lifting quarantine.
14. All districts to construct animal holding grounds to keep animals impounded for breaching quarantine restrictions.
15. The RDCs to engage the district courts of law to speedily prosecute those breaching quarantine restrictions.
16. For the time being not animals from Tanzania will be allowed to enter Uganda through Isingiro, Kyotera and/ or Rakai.
17. Border Security Officers should immediately stop animals entering from Tanzania until further notice.
18. Any animals intercepted for moving against these guidelines shall be sent back to the original district and the offenders will be handed over to Courts of law.
19. No person shall be allowed to move animals into, through and out of the disease free sub-counties without a valid cattle traders' license and a valid animal movement permit from the DVO and Parish Chief/LC I "letter of ownership".
20. No District Veterinary Officer will issue an animal movement permit without the transporter producing a "letter of ownership" from LC I of the area verified by the Parish Chief and the area officer in charge of the Police and dully signed and stamped by these Officers
21. There shall be no movement of animals at night
22. All District Police Commanders (DPC) in conjunction with the MAAIF Police and Anti-stock Theft Unit (ASTU) and the DVOs shall mount strategic animal check points along stock routes to check compliance with animal movement guidelines.

23. All vehicles transporting animals from one place to another must stop at every animal/police check point along the route for checking and verification of documents.
24. All livestock transporters must submit photocopies of all the required documents to the management and/or security of the receiving abattoir
25. The management and/or security of the receiving abattoir shall not admit any livestock without properly and fully verified documents stated in these guidelines.
26. All RDCs, LC V Chairpersons and Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) are requested to ensure maximum compliance with the guidelines.

 VINCENT SEMPIKIKI

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