



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

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MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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PRESS RELEASE

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**THE ANTHRAX OUTBREAK IN BWABWATA WEST CONTAINED**

The anthrax outbreak in the western part of Bwabwata National Park in the Kavango East Region has been contained and declared over by the Anthrax Containment Team.

The Anthrax Containment Team consists of representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism; Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry; Ministry of Health and Social Services and the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

A total of 243 carcasses consisting of 155 hippos, 86 buffalo and 2 impalas were removed and disposed during the operation involving 37 personnel. The last mortality recorded and disposed of was of a buffalo on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2017.

During the outbreak, no clinical cases of anthrax were detected in humans and livestock. The Ministry of Health and Social Services put 724 people on prophylaxis treatment against anthrax mainly in the Mukwe Constituency as a precautionary measure.

Sensitization and awareness campaigns were conducted and the cooperation of the public was remarkable during the outbreak. We thank members of the public for their cooperation and patience during the operation.

Livestock movement restrictions that were in place before the outbreak in the Mukwe Constituency continue to be implemented until further notice.

Three thousand (3000) cattle from 11 crush pens and 1010 goats were vaccinated against the outbreak.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism with the assistance from Namibia Helicopter Services vaccinated a total of 216 animals, which includes 125 sable, 65 roan, 15 tsessebe, 10 hippo and 1 lion. We thank Namibia Helicopter Services for donating vaccines and a helicopter for this outstanding support.

We also applaud the NamParks IV Project for their assistance in providing protective gear for our personnel and maintenance of equipment used in containing the outbreak.

The Ministry further appreciates support from the Government of Botswana, the Air Wing of the Namibian Police Force, Dr. Ortwin Achenborn and Dr. Caitlin Cossaboom for the active assistance in the containment of the outbreak.

The Regional Containment Team further resolved that a National Standard Operating Procedure or Action Plan for the containment of anthrax outbreaks should be developed with participation of stakeholders to guide Government in future outbreaks.

  
Romeo Muyunda  
MET Spokesperson



