



MEDIA STATEMENT

CLARIFYING LIVESTOCK EXPORT TO MAURITIUS AND COMMITMENT TO LOCAL VALUE ADDITION

The Livestock and Livestock Products Board of Namibia (LLPBN) has noted recent media reports and stakeholder inquiries regarding the issuance of permits for the live export of cattle to Mauritius. We wish to provide the public and our valued stakeholders with the necessary context regarding the regulatory justification for this export permission.

The recent shipment of 2,700 cattle is a private commercial transaction between Namibian producers and Mauritian buyers. This opportunity arose as Mauritius sought alternative, high-quality, and disease-free livestock due to the prevailing Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in its traditional supply source, South Africa.

The LLPBN's mandate is to facilitate trade within the confines of the existing regulatory framework. Permission for this export was granted in strict accordance with established law.

- **Legal Basis:** The Livestock and Livestock Products (LLP) Act, 1981 (Act No 12 of 1981, as amended) and its relevant regulations, do not provide for a prohibition on the export of live animals. Instead, export is permissible provided it complies with the conditions set out in Government Notice (GN) 198 of 15 October 2015 issued in terms of Section 54(1) of the Customs and Excise Act, 1998 (Act No 20 of 1998, as amended).
- **Compliance:** The transaction met all LLPBN export permit conditions, which are designed to uphold the requirements of the law.
- **Institutional Integrity:** Prohibiting such a deal without a legal basis would be misaligned with the Board's objective to promote the industry's interests and would risk damaging Namibia's reputation as a reliable international trading partner.

We acknowledge the concerns regarding throughput at local abattoirs. It remains a priority for the LLPBN that local processing capacity is utilized to its fullest. To balance this with export activities, permission was granted within the allowable threshold of **450 kilograms**, ensuring the shipment aligns with the "Growth at Home" strategy.

The Namibian livestock industry is broadly aligned with free-market principles, allowing market forces to determine supply and demand. Our regulatory system respects these principles, keeping market interference to a necessary minimum.

Our primary responsibility is to create a sustainable environment for the Namibian farmer. By allowing access to diverse markets, we provide producers with competitive pricing options. This competition ultimately strengthens the resilience of the entire agricultural value chain, particularly during periods of fluctuating domestic demand.

The LLPBN remains steadfast in its support for local value addition. However, we also embrace opportunities that position Namibia as a premium global supplier.

The LLPBN assures the public that the live export to Mauritius is an outcome of the longstanding market forces governing our industry. This event testifies to the excellence of Namibian veterinary services and is not intended to disadvantage our domestic meat industry. We remain committed to a balanced approach that protects local industry while empowering our producers.

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