



**KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

**DATE: 3 July 2026**

## **UPDATE ON WEEK 33 OF FMD RESPONSE**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report highlights the FMD control activities for week 33 (26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026). The activities include the FMD vaccination, awareness activities, sanitary controls and animal movements in the FMD affected areas of the country.

### **2. WEEK 33 REPORTS**

The major activity in week 33 was surveillance and inspection of dip tanks that are in close proximity with area where FMD cases were picked in the previous week. Mpameni dip tank in Luve is affected thus putting the Hhohho region at risk. This prompted inspection of Sidwashini, Magoga, Magonigoni and Eden Valley dip tanks in the Hhohho region. There was nothing suspicious in all these dip tanks except in Eden Valley where two strong suspects were picked. Blood samples were collected from the suspects and sent to the laboratory. During the inspection, 3 Mpameni cattle were found grazing at Magoga.

Panata Ranch in Ngogola was inspected and strong suspect cases were picked. Blood samples were collected from the infected cattle, results are still pending. Mkhaya Game Reserve was notified about the FMD which their animals were facing. During the engagement, it was confirmed that no signs of FMD had been seen in all Mkhaya animals including the buffalos.

In the Shiselweni region, one FMD case was reported in Makholweni, a contact dip tank of Maphumzane. In addition to dip tank inspections in this region, blood samples were collected for PVM in some of the previously vaccinated dip tanks. The sampled dip tanks were Nquthu, Makhava and Qomintaba.

### **3. INSPECTIONS**

Inspections done in week 33 were as follows;

- a. **Luve/ Mliba Area** – Inspection was done at Mabuti, Croydon, Mncweba and Sharos dip tanks. During the inspection, Croydon and Mncweba dip tanks were found to be infected. In addition, Mndzebele Farm, Dinedor Farm, Ndlovu Farm and Mpisi Breeding Farm were also inspected. Four suspects with typical FMD lesions were picked at Mpisi Breeding farm. Blood samples were collected from these animals and the laboratory results are still pending.
- b. **Ngculwini** – Mzimpofu cattle were inspected and no new suspects were noted. 4 FMD cases were found at St. Juliana dairy cattle in St. Josephs dip tank.
- c. **Lubombo** – Madubuya nd Mabili dip tanks were inspected. In both areas, no FMD cases were seen.
- d. **Shiselweni** – Sokhokhozela, Mhlosheni, Makholweni and Sijingo dip tanks were inspected. A suspect case was picked at Makholweni. This suspect was bled and laboratory results are still pending.

- e. **Hhohho** - Sidwashini, Magoga, Magonigoni and Eden Valley dip tanks were inspected. Two suspects were noted at Eden Valley. Blood samples were collected from these animals and sent to the laboratory. Laboratory results are pending.

#### 4. AWARENESS AND SENSITIZATION

Four awareness and sensitization meetings were held in week 3. These were;

- a. Two awareness meetings on the SOP for slaughter of livestock from FMD the guard area were conducted. The first meeting was held in Manzini Veterinary Services on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 for Abattoir owners, VAs, AHIs, Meat Inspectors and Speculators. The other meeting was held in Lavumisa Community Hall on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 where AHIs, LEO and VAs from Lubuli, Sithobela, Siphofane, Tikhuba, Hluthi and Lavumisa sub regions attended.

From both meetings, the following submissions were made;

- There is a need to conduct a workshop for butchery owners.
  - Strengthening of education of check points personnel was critical.
  - Filling of vacant posts in the department was to be considered to ensure proper implementation of the SOP.
  - Uniformity in the execution of SOP must be done.
  - Incentives/ re-imburement of officers – airtime, transport to abattoirs and overtime allowances.
- b. Awareness and sensitization meeting for Mpisi Training, Piggery and Mpisi Breeding Farm staff was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The staff was made aware of the current FMD outbreak and the necessary biosecurity procedures they were to follow in order to prevent introduction of the disease to Mpisi.
- c. An awareness meeting and discussion check point procedures was held with the REPS, NDMA VAs, AHIs and VOs in Manzini on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### 5. CHECK POINTS

Relocation of Mbadlane and Mkhuzweni FMD control check points will be done on Saturday the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026. Mkhuzweni check point will be relocated to Nhlambeni next to sewer, the Mbadlane check point will move to Gumtree. Operations in the new sites will commence on Sunday morning if a deal will food service provider is finalized. There will be a mini check point at the cemetery in Ngwane Park before Sidzakeni. The police will patrol to ensure that no smuggling of livestock and their products happen in the other feeder roads.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Dipping of cattle should be temporarily suspended for a month in some dip tanks to continuous spread of infection while awaiting the vaccine.
- Decommissioning one check point either in Shiselweni/ Lubombo and establishing a new one at Mzaceni.
- Placing 2 Cordon guards at Mzaceni, in the Nkomazi river bridge to separate Mpameni and Magoga cattle until a check point is established in that area.
- Withdrawing the patrollers at Matata.