



PRESS STATEMENT

NOTIFICATION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN GAUTENG PROVINCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Resettlement wishes to inform the public and stakeholders that the Republic of South Africa confirmed an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian Influenza on a commercial chicken-layer farm in Gauteng Province.

Avian Influenza is a highly infectious and contagious viral disease affecting several species of food producing birds (chickens, turkeys, quails, guinea fowl, etc.), pet birds and wild birds. It is a transboundary disease that can be spread via migratory wild birds and mechanical vectors, such as contaminated vehicles, cages and clothing, and through international trade in poultry and poultry products. The disease can be transmitted to humans through exposure to infected birds or handling of infected carcasses. Avian flu has the potential to develop into a global pandemic that can be as devastating as COVID-19 pandemic.

The Minister further advises the public and stakeholders that Zimbabwe is currently not importing any poultry and poultry products from the Republic of South Africa. The highest possible risk of introduction of the disease into Zimbabwe will be from migratory birds and illegal trade of live poultry and poultry products. For the avoidance of doubt and confusion, importation of poultry and poultry products from South Africa remains suspended.

The Department of Veterinary Services continues to monitor the situation and will advise of any changes on this position. The public and stakeholders are requested to be vigilant and to report any deaths of domestic poultry and wild birds to their nearest Veterinary Offices. For more information please contact the Department of Veterinary Services on:

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