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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**NO. 1854****11 March 2022****ANIMAL DISEASES ACT, 1984 (ACT NO. 35 OF 1984)****ANIMAL DISEASES REGULATIONS: PROPOSED AMENDMENT**

I, Mrs AT Didiza, Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development hereby invite all interested institutions, organisations and individuals to submit written comments on the proposed African swine fever disease management strategy and to do so within 60 days from the date of publication of this Public Consultation Notice to the following address:

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MRS AT DIDIZA, MP

Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE:**PROPOSED AFRICAN SWINE FEVER DISEASE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

African Swine Fever (ASF) is a serious disease of swine and can cause very high mortality rates in domestic pigs. It is caused by a virus and currently, there are no vaccines or treatments available to control the disease. ASF is a disease that is notifiable to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and has trade implications when reported. In the last decade ASF has spread through Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and recently to many countries in Asia. ASF is arguably one of the largest constraints for pig production in Africa. Although total eradication of the disease is not possible throughout South Africa, due to natural vectors and wildlife hosts maintaining the virus in the sylvatic cycle, the disease can be successfully controlled and eradicated in domestic pig production systems by eliminating contact with the virus.

ASF is a controlled disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act 35 of 1984). The Animal Diseases Regulations prescribe control measures in the case of an outbreak of ASF. Historically an ASF controlled area was described in the Regulations, with specific additional control measures due to the presence of the sylvatic cycle of ASF (between warthogs and soft ticks) in this area.

This ASF situation in South Africa has however changed drastically since 2012, with domestic cycle outbreaks increasing in frequency and spreading to provinces never previously affected. The ASF disease management strategy document provides a brief introduction and background on the disease and the history in South Africa, followed by a description of the problems and challenges faced for the control of ASF in South Africa. It further lists the broad goals for control and prevention of ASF, where South Africa's Veterinary Services can assist and where broader interventions will be needed. It concludes with considerations for the revision of prescribed control measures for ASF.

Comments and inputs are invited on the content of the ASF disease management strategy. The document is available on the website: <https://www.dalrrd.gov.za/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Animal-Health/information/dahpolicy> or on request from PetuniaM@dalrrd.gov.za