

Restricted



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEDIA ALERT**

**TO ALL MEDIA**

**05 OCTOBER 2023**

**UPDATE ON HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN LIMPOPO**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) would like to update people of Limpopo on the outbreak of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Avian influenza is a highly contagious viral disease that affects several species of meat and eggs producing birds, pet birds and wild birds. As the Department, we would also like to thank everyone involved for the efforts made so far in containing the spread of the outbreak, and further call for more vigilance on biosecurity measures to curb the spread.

To date, a total of five (5) HPAI outbreaks were confirmed in commercial chicken farms in the Waterberg District Municipality. Three in Bela Bela Local Municipality, one (1) in Modimolle-Mokgoopong Local Municipality and one (1) in Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

All affected farms have been immediately placed under quarantine and no live animals/birds and eggs are allowed to be removed from the farm. LDARD would like to reassure consumers that commercial poultry meat and eggs are safe to eat. Birds affected with HPAI get sick quickly and die. Generally, the first sign of sick birds is the drop in production, meaning birds will produce very few (if any) eggs.

The quarantine of infected farms means that no eggs or chicken from infected farms, will make its way to the shelves. We strongly encourage all poultry farmers at various levels of production, including those with birds kept as a hobby, to adhere to strict biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of HPAI. LDARD also urge farmers and individuals to report any suspect outbreak to their nearest agricultural office, Animal Health Technician, State Veterinarian or Private Veterinarian.

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**For more media enquiries**

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***Issued by LDARD Communication Services, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development***