



BUSINESSBOTSWANA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

UPDATE ON GRAIN IMPORT SUSPENSION: COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO RESTORE SUPPLY

Gaborone, 23rd January 2025- Business Botswana wishes to inform its members, and all relevant stakeholders regarding the ongoing efforts to restore the importation of grains from South Africa and other affected areas. This follows the notice issued by the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture's Department of Plant Protection on January 16, 2025, which halted the importation of grains.

Business Botswana fully understands the supply shock caused by the grain importation suspension to key producers. This has led to insufficient stock levels of raw materials and limited time to source alternatives. This sudden disruption in supply chains raises serious concerns, as any depletion of raw materials and finished products could have far-reaching consequences. Such shortages would not only affect farmers and producers but would also negatively impact consumers across the country.

However, given the urgency of the matter, we assure all the stakeholders that we are actively engaging and collaborating with Ministry of Lands and Agriculture officials and industry associations to restore supply chains and resume production.

While stakeholders may experience some shortages in input supplies and finished products in the short term, rest assured that producers are working closely with the relevant Ministry to identify and implement immediate and long-term solutions.

In particular, we wish to alert farmers, particularly those in outlying areas, that stock feed supplies are likely to run out shortly, even if maize imports are restored soon. Farmers should be prepared for possible shortages and are strongly encouraged to seek alternative feed sources in advance. The situation will be alleviated if maize supplies are fully restored before the weekend, but in the meantime, proactive measures are necessary to minimise the impact.

We commit to keep you informed of any further developments. **END**

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