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SECRETARY

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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock
Tashichhodzong, Thimphu: Bhutan



PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock hereby notifies the general public that an outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) was confirmed on February 28, 2024 at a pig farm in Phurbaling village (Pasakha), under Phuentsholing Thromde, Chhukha Dzongkhag. This is the second outbreak of ASF in the country within this calendar year.

ASF is a highly lethal disease that affects pigs, often leading to significant disruptions in the livelihoods of pig farmers. Currently, there are informal reports indicating a widespread outbreak in the region. The ASF outbreaks witnessed in Bhutan are typically a result of the movement of infected pigs and contaminated pig products. Therefore, we urge the general public to refrain from the illegal importation of pigs and pig products. Additionally, any suspected illegal imports should be reported immediately through the toll-free number 1555 (BFDA).

Moreover, despite repeated advocacy and awareness to pig farmers to improve pig farm biosecurity, including better farm management and pig husbandry practices, we have observed that the majority of farms where outbreaks occurred had poor farm biosecurity and inadequate farming practices. It is imperative for pig farmers in the country to safeguard their pig farms and demonstrate due diligence in enhancing the biosecurity of their farms by implementing the following measures:

- Do not feed kitchen wastes/wastes from hotels and restaurants containing pork and pork products to the pigs;
- Ensure other kitchen wastes that are fed to the pigs are properly cooked before feeding;
- Prevent domestic pigs from coming into contact with wild pigs;
- Prevent visitors from entering the farm;
- Immediately report any suspicious pig deaths, both domestic and wild, to the nearest livestock extension center or through toll-free number 1244 (DoL).

Any person found not adhering to this notification shall be firmly dealt in accordance with the relevant laws of the country.

Issued for information and strict compliance.

(Thinley Namgyel)
Chair, National Incident Command Committee