



REPUBLIC OF GHANA

MINISTRY
OF
FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

P.O.Box M37, Accra
Digital Address: GA-110-2082

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PRESS RELEASE

UNAUTHORIZED TEMPORARY LIVESTOCK MARKETS DURING THE UPCOMING ISLAMIC FESTIVAL

The Veterinary Services Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) has observed with concern the increasing proliferation of temporary livestock markets and unauthorized animal sale points in open spaces across several cities and towns ahead of the upcoming Islamic festival.

While the Department acknowledges and respects the socio-cultural and religious significance of the festival, the public is reminded that all livestock trading activities must be conducted in accordance with established veterinary, public health, environmental sanitation, and local government regulations.

It has been observed that many of these temporary livestock markets are operating without veterinary inspection, approved sanitation arrangements, biosecurity measures, animal disease surveillance, and authorization from the appropriate authorities. The uncontrolled operation of such markets poses significant risks, including the spread of zoonotic and transboundary animal diseases, environmental pollution, public health threats, traffic obstruction, and security concerns.

This directive is issued pursuant to the mandate of the Veterinary Services Department under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1961 (Act 83), which empowers the Department to prevent, control, and manage animal diseases and regulate activities that may pose risks to animal and public health.

Accordingly, operators of temporary livestock markets, livestock traders, and the general public are hereby advised to comply strictly with all applicable regulatory requirements. All temporary livestock markets established for the purpose of the Islamic festival must be closed and dismantled immediately after the festival activities.

Failure to comply with this directive may result in enforcement actions, including closure of unauthorized markets, confiscation where necessary, and the application of sanctions by relevant state authorities.

The Department counts on the cooperation of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies, Regional Coordinating Councils, security agencies, traditional authorities, religious leaders, livestock traders, and the general public in safeguarding animal health, public health, environmental sanitation, and public safety.

DR. EMMANUEL ALLEGYE-CUDJOE

Ag. CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

For: MINISTER

Cc: Hon. Minister, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Chief Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Head, Local Government Service
Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs)
Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs)
Ghana Police Service
National Security Secretariat
Environmental Health and Sanitation Directorate
Public Health Division, Ghana Health Service
Regional and District Veterinary Officers