



Disease-free chickens in the North West

NO BIRD FLU FOUND IN NORTH WEST

North West – The North West Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) confirmed on Friday, 14 July 2017, that no farm in the North West province has been affected by the outbreak of bird flu.

All suspected cases of mortalities in the North West have been ruled out as having been due to other causes. The Department of READ is on high alert for any cases that might be detected and has a contingency plan in place should the disease spread to the province.

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious viral disease with up to 100 percent mortality in domestic fowl (e.g. chicken or birds kept for eggs or flesh).

The H5N8 strand of the virus was however detected in Mpumalanga and Gauteng during the first week of July 2017. It is similar to the virus that was isolated in countries like Zimbabwe in June 2017 and Egypt in 2016.

"There is no conclusive evidence that the current Avian Influenza strain of H5N8 virus affects humans. Chicken is safe for consumption as it passes through inspection conducted by Veterinary Public health officers," Mandisa Dawn, spokesperson of the NW Department of READ, said. Human infection with the H5N8 virus cannot be excluded, although the likelihood is low, based on the limited information obtained to date.

"Producers are urged to improve their bio-security on farms and avoid any situations where wild birds come in contact with chickens. Lakes and dams particularly attract wild birds which increases the risk of contact with domestic chickens," Dawn added.

Chicken farmers and the general public should remain vigilant and report cases of high mortalities of birds, in particular chickens, at their nearest State Veterinary offices.

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'NO!' TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Rustenburg – The Rustenburg Local Municipality (RLM) hosted a march against women and child abuse on Thursday, 13 July 2017. The march started at the taxi rank and came to an end at the municipality. The Executive Mayor, Cllr Mpho Khunou of the RLM, was handed a memorandum.

The march was a partnership between the Directorate Public Safety, Correctional Services and members of the Police. Others in attendance included the Traffic Department, the Fire Brigade, the Royal Bafokeng nation and members of the community.



Men and women in uniform taking a stand against abuse.



The community making noise against abuse!



Rustenburg taking to the streets against abuse.

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Winners wil be chosen by a panel on 2 September 2017

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