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



བློ་ཚེན།

SECRETARY

MoAF/Sec-7/2022-23/ 632

December 15, 2022

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Despite repeated awareness programs and notifications issued by the Ministry advising the general public to refrain from importing live pigs and pork products into the country to prevent introduction of African Swine Fever (ASF), there are incidences of non-adherence to the notifications issued. The ongoing outbreak of ASF in Gelephu is suspected to have been caused by illegal import of contaminated pork.

As such, the Ministry would like to remind the general public that the ban on import of live pigs and pork products into the country is in effect since July 27, 2022. Henceforth, the inspection of all incoming vehicles and commuters at the entry gates shall be strengthened to ensure that no live pigs and pork products enter the country.

In the event of any violation of the import prohibitions by individuals, business entities or institutions, the offenders shall be subjected to a fine as per the existing laws (10 times the market value of the seized pork product calculated using the market rate of Nu. 450/- per kg of pork).

The general public and relevant implementers are requested to extend full cooperation to prevent introduction and spread of African Swine Fever for the national interest of biosecurity and food safety.

(Thinley Namgyel)

Cc:

1. Hon'ble Minister, MoAF for kind information.
2. Dasho Secretary, MoHCA, Thimphu for kind support
3. Chief of Police, RBP, Thimphu for kind support
4. Dasho Dzungda, 20 Dzongkhags for kind information and support.
5. Dasho Thrompon, Four Thromdes for kind information and support.
6. Director, DoL, MoAF, Thimphu for necessary action.
7. Offtg. Director General, BAFRA for necessary action.
8. BBSCL with a request to kindly broadcast this notification [in BBS TV: 3 consecutive days starting today both in Dzongkha and in English; BBS Radio: 3 consecutive days starting today in Dzongkha, English, Tshangla and Lhotsham Kha]