

Butcheries, slaughter houses and pork joints in Musanze district are suffering, with many forced to close temporarily as the effect of unknown disease comes in full circle in Northern Province.

According to reports, more than 250 pigs have been killed by an unknown disease that is adversely affecting pigs in the Muko sector, Northern Province.

In a statement released by the district earlier this week, the authorities called for suspension, sale, and slaughter of pork meat in all outlets pending the results of sample tests to be assessed.

“Due to the unknown disease that is affecting pigs for the last four days, all butcheries, movement of pigs, slaughter houses and where pigs are should be temporarily closed as a way of responding to the infections.” The statement reads in part adding that dumping of pigs that have died should be done in deep holes, appropriate hygiene practices should be maintained and breeding of male pigs in sectors of uko, Kimonyi, Muhoza, Rwaza, and Busogo should be suspended.

In the Muko sector, disease has killed pigs, with residents reporting that the animals are dying after symptoms which include high fever, refusal to eat, weakness, red color on the skin and bad breathing.

The veterinary and research technician for the agriculture and animal resources in Musanze district, James Ndaruhutse says that samples have been taken for further assessment to identify the unknown disease.