



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE INDABA (FMD)

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Hon. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, delivered her keynote address at the recent Foot and Mouth Disease Indaba which was held in eThekweni Metro. This Indaba brings together different stakeholders within the Agricultural sector to exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships and map out sustainable strategies to curb the spread of FMD across the Province. The continuous outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in KwaZulu-Natal has significant implications for the livestock industry, including trade disruptions and potential losses for farmers. This engagement provided a platform for key stakeholders to develop long-term solutions to combat FMD.





Foot & Mouth Disease Indaba

VENUE: UMHLANGA, ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

DATE: 30 (THURSDAY) OCTOBER 2025

**Programme Director
Head of Department Mr ZN Dlamini**

MEC Honourable TP kaMadlopha-Mthethwa's remarks during the occasion of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Indaba

The Foot-and-Mouth Disease outbreak is upon us. Despite facing challenges in controlling it, the disease has not prevailed over us. Clinical signs of the disease are evident in most districts of KwaZulu-Natal, with the exception of uGu. The disease is not limited to our province, as Gauteng, North West, Free State and Mpumalanga provinces are also grappling with the disease, although not as severely as in our province, which has 180 FMD open outbreaks that remain unresolved. As of October 2025, there are 274 unresolved outbreaks across these provinces.

This situation calls upon us to deviate from 'business as usual approach' and requires a formidable strategy. Since the outbreak of the disease in 2021, we have been conducting rigorous vaccination campaigns, having started in 2022, resulting in the vaccination of about 800 thousand cattle. However, it has been a cause of great concern for the department that we have noted flare-ups of FMD even in areas previously vaccinated.

The continuous outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in KwaZulu-Natal has significant implications for the livestock industry, including trade disruptions and potential losses for farmers. We have convened this engagement with key stakeholders to develop long-term solutions to combat FMD.



We are pleased to have industry experts, livestock associations, and private and state veterinary services present, all of whom are capable of assisting us in achieving a collaborative way forward. The situation we are experiencing regarding the FMD, necessitates a collective effort from all stakeholders to devise a solution.









