



To all media houses

24 September 2020

## **INVITATION TO WORLD RABIES DAY COMMEMORATION AND CONCLUDING SWEEP-UP DOG VACCINATION DRIVE IN UMLAZI BY DARD MEC SITHOLE-MOLOI**

A three-month long dog vaccination battle to save the community of uMlazi townships and its surrounding areas from the deadly spread of rabies will end on World Rabies Day, although on a tragic note, with eThekweni Metro having lost five boys to rabid dog bites.

The five boys aged between two and nine years died after being bitten by dogs in separate incidents in uMlazi, Mbumbulu and Marianhill areas from July to September during the course of the vaccination campaign which saw close to 5000 dogs and cats treated in affected areas of eThekweni Metro alone and over 20000 province-wide, since April this year.

Despite having eliminated the disease in the past in eThekweni Metro, it keeps re-emerging due an increasing number of stray dogs and non-compliance by pet owners in heeding the call to vaccinate, while the Department's efforts on a house to house approach have been marred by hijackings of state vehicles.

Therefore, as part of observing the World Rabies Day, MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi will be leading the concluding sweep-up dog vaccination drive to encourage pet owners still straggling behind to bring their animals through for vaccination and sterilization during the big wrap up in uMlazi.

The Honourable MEC Bongiwe Sithole-Moloi therefore, graciously requests you to attend and report on the outcomes of this concluding drive aimed at creating an awareness about the dangers of the disease and its control strategies by the Department.

This engagement will take place as follows:

**Venue:** Zinhle Cele Park, uMlazi D Section

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Date:** 28 September 2020

**For more information, kindly contact Media Liaison Officer, Mr. Mack Makhathini on 076 965 5870.**