



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA ALERT

To: All Media

For Immediate Release

13 October 2024

**KWAZULU-NATAL AGRICULTURE MEC THEMBENI KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA
TO INTRODUCE REVOLUTIONARY DIPPING CHEMICALS
AS MEASURES TO FIGHT TICK-BORNE DISEASES**

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Honourable Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, will announce innovative dipping tank chemicals designed to enhance primary animal health, animal productivity and animal husbandry. Dipping remains one of the most effective ways of preventing ticks and tick-borne diseases.

Last year's data from communal farmers revealed that about 60 thousand cows died of tick-borne diseases, with a lack of adherence to cattle dipping routines or shortage of acaricides, suspected of causing the losses. MEC Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa believes the provision and distribution of dipping chemicals and acaricides to all 11 Districts of the province, is the solution to bring an end to dying livestock, which is a major economic empowerment for rural communities and farmers.

In the fight to contain the spread of one of the major tick-borne diseases - Foot-and-Mouth (FMD), there are still movement restrictions in the three Districts - Zululand, uMkhanyakude, and Cetshwayo. During the launch of the dipping chemicals, MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa will also update the public about the state of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease in KZN and its impact on red meat production as well as its export prospects.

During the launch, attendees, including the Honourable MEC, will also observe World Rabies Day, occurring against the backdrop of an intensive vaccination campaign by the Department of Agriculture. MEC Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa will also use this platform to call on all pet owners to ensure that all cats and dogs are vaccinated against rabies, which is a dreaded disease causing human fatalities when bitten or attacked by rabid dogs.

There have been records of 11 positive dogs in King Cetshwayo District to date.

Event Details:

Date: Friday, 18 October 2024

Time: 09:00 AM

Venue:

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development