



## **AGRICULTURE MEC PRAISES COMMUNAL LIVESTOCK FARMERS FOR VACCINATION RESPONSE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DATED: 26 FEBRUARY 2026

The first Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine jabs in KwaZulu-Natal have been administered at Bhobobhoyi Dip Tank in the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal. Its part of the 200 thousand doses of BioGenesis Bago vaccines from Argentina currently being performed in a nationwide mass vaccination drive. The MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa has deployed a team of veterinary services, animal health technicians, data capturers, and administration clerks to descend on uGu District for a mass vaccination drive, starting with all dip tanks under the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, today.

The district is expecting about 45,000 to 60,000 communal and commercial cattle for this vaccination drive, which started with much fanfare amongst farmers. Livestock farmers and owners have responded positively to the MEC's call, as evidenced by a sizeable turnout of farmers at the vaccination sites. Despite minor challenges due to the large-scale drive, the vaccination drive began smoothly without any major issues.

"It is pleasing to have a significant number of livestock farmers participating in the vaccination drive. We acknowledge the difficulties they have faced since the vaccine shortage in October, which originated from Botswana. We urge all livestock owners, particularly those in the uGu region, to bring their cattle to the dip tanks. Our next destination will be the Harry Gwala District, where we expect local farmers to present their cattle for vaccination. While making this appeal, it is important to adhere to the animal control measures we have implemented," said kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

Meanwhile, two farmers, Thobekile Vezi and Sibusiso Gambushe, who brought their cattle for vaccination at the Manzamhlophe Dip Tank under the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality, expressed their excitement about having their animals vaccinated, which will protect and improve their health. They thanked the government for providing the vaccines.

### **MASS VACCINATION DRIVE FOR UGU DISTRICT**

Day Two, 27 February 2026, uMuziwabantu Local Municipality

Day Three, 28 February 2026, uMzumbe Local Municipality

Day Four, 01 March 2026, Mdoni Local Municipality

Day Five, 02 March 2026 Private Farms

Day Six, 03 March 2026 Private Farms

**ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**