



## **AGRICULTURE MEC URGES OTHER DISTRICTS YET TO RECEIVE VACCINES TO BE WELL PREPARED**

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The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has called on districts yet to receive vaccinations against Foot-and-Mouth Disease to be well prepared and urged farmers to present their cattle at dip tanks as scheduled.

As vaccination efforts against Foot-and-Mouth Disease are currently underway in the uMzimkhulu Local Municipality within the Harry Gwala District, the MEC has encouraged farmers across the province to prepare for their turn in receiving vaccines from Turkiye-manufactured - Dollvet.

Veterinary Services-led vaccination operations have been concluded in the Greater Kokstad area, Johannes Phumani Phungula and Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma local municipalities. The teams have performed vaccinations at 75 dip tanks in the uMzimkhulu area, bringing the total to just over 103 300 for the Harry Gwala District, with vaccinations set to continue until the weekend in this local municipality and a few locations within Greater Kokstad. This includes yesterday, 19th March, where 9 119 vaccines were administered under uMzimkhulu which boasts the majority of cattle in the district.

Following the demonstration of administering vaccines to cattle at Mhlaba Diptank, MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa said other districts need to start preparing and be ready, "We are encouraged to see many livestock farmers visiting our dip tanks to have their livestock vaccinated. After wrapping up in Harry Gwala District, we will then proceed to other districts. We would like to appreciate our dedicated teams, led by our veterinary services, for their efforts in administering the vaccines. Our goal is to ensure every cattle in the province receives this crucial vaccination. We are leaving no one behind. We will announce the forthcoming vaccination dates for the districts soon and request that everyone be prepared."

One of the livestock farmers, Pheza Madziba at Mhlaba Diptank, has urged the department to consistently support them, "We appreciate the MEC's efforts in ensuring our cattle are vaccinated. She has come down and rolled her sleeves by administering vaccines. We would also like to request the department to continue with vaccinations even during winter seasons, as well as animal supplements to boost the immune system of our livestock."

Meanwhile, dairy farms represented by the Milk Producers Organisation have administered 74 thousand doses of vaccines out of the 90 thousand allocated. The MPO has a cattle census of 180 thousand dairy cattle in the Harry Gwala District.

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