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CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF DIPPING CHEMICALS KEY TO ANIMAL HEALTH

The continuous provision of dipping chemicals to the province's 2 286 dip tanks plays a huge role in the prevention of diseases and external parasite control in animals. That is according to the MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Mrs Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, who was monitoring the functioning of dip tanks in the King Cetshwayo and iLembe districts.

The two districts are currently on a mass vaccination drive to inoculate close to 200 000 animals against foot-and-mouth disease.

"As a farmer myself, one of my main mandates when I was appointed MEC for this department was to see to it that all our dip tanks were stocked with acaricides (dipping chemicals). Regular dipping remains one of the most effective and affordable methods for farmers to protect livestock against ticks, lice, mites, and flies. It also reduces the spread of tick-borne diseases that impact cattle, sheep, and goats," said MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

Following engagement with farmers, the MEC noted concerns around water shortages, particularly during dry seasons, and in instances where dip tanks are larger than the standard average size of 17 500 litres capacity.

"In this dip tank, their challenge is not the lack of dipping chemicals, but their dipping tank is much bigger and we are going to look at that. The farmers have also informed me about the shortage of water during winter and we are going to be looking at whether we are going to provide them with a borehole, but it will depend on whether the area has water underground. Other than that they are happy with the work of the department. In instances where dipping tanks are much bigger than the rest, we are going to see if we can increase the allocation of dipping chemicals that we are giving them," said the MEC.

Meanwhile, as of 26 July 2026, teams leading vaccinations have inoculated 53 974 animals within a five-day period.

King Cetshwayo District: 39 445
iLembe District: 14 529.

Vaccinations continue in iLembe and King Cetshwayo districts until 5 August 2026 as part of the first phase. Only Amajuba and uMzinyathi districts are remaining.

ENDS.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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