



MASS CATTLE VACCINATION GAINS MOMENTUM IN UMZINYATHI DISTRICT

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The mass vaccination of cattle in the uMzinyathi District is in full swing, with 44 000 animals having been brought to dipping tanks across the area in the past six days.

The veterinary-led teams are currently operating in the Msinga and uMvoti Local Municipalities until 30 August 2026. uMzinyathi is one of the last two districts outstanding in the provincial rollout. The district has an estimated 350 000 head of cattle, including commercial herds.

MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa is participating in the Provincial Cabinet's Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) / District Development Model (DDM) programme, which aims to engage directly with communities on the ground, listen to their grievances, fast-track solutions and unlock bottlenecks impeding service delivery. The MEC provides guidance, particularly where challenges are beyond the scope of the War Room. She inspected the vaccination programme at Sibumba Diptank under Msinga Local Municipality.

Since the first vaccination drive in uGu District, the Department has moved swiftly to inoculate 1.7 million head of cattle with two vaccine types - BioGenesis Bago and Dollvet.

The outbreak was declared a national disaster earlier this year, necessitating a mass vaccination drive that has eased farmers' fears. The outbreak caused widespread economic disruption due to strict controls on the movement of animals, the international ban on the sale of animals and animal products, and the closure of livestock auctions.

The MEC said agricultural challenges must be prioritised as local livelihoods depend entirely on farming.

"We have to prioritise agriculture because most people's livelihoods here depend on it. The vaccination programme is progressing well in uMzinyathi District, and we are hoping to be done by 12 September. We have vaccinated 44,000 animals since we started last Friday. We will then move to the last remaining district - Amajuba," said the MEC.

Apart from vaccinations, the MEC has directed her Veterinary Services unit to ensure that communal livestock are also supplemented with vitamins, particularly during the winter season, in order to boost their immune systems.

ENDS.

For media enquiries:
Vusi Khumalo (MLO)
082 350 4674

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