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## **KWAZULU-NATAL VETERINARY TEAMS COMPLETED FMD VACCINATIONS IN UMKHANYAKUDE ON A HIGH NOTE**

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's veterinary services have accomplished one of the biggest assignments yet in the fight against the devastating foot-and-mouth disease outbreak by concluding vaccinations in the uMkhanyakude District. The district has four local municipalities - UMhlabuyalingana, Jozini, Inkosi Mtubatuba, and Big 5 Hlabisa - all boasting the province's biggest communal cattle herd with a census of about 200 thousand. In line with the national vaccination targets of vaccinating over 80 percent coverage, the veterinary-led teams overshot its target by vaccinating over 86 percent of the district's cattle population.

A total of 20 teams administered 172 649 doses across 180 dip tanks and 24 private beef production farms using vaccines produced by Dollvet from Turkiye, targeting the FMD SAT 1, 2, and 3 strains prevalent in the district. Nearly 42 thousand animals within the district have been branded with green ear-tags through the Livestock Identification and Traceability System (LITS), indicating their proximity to wildlife reserves. The LITS offers an animal its unique chip. The system has been hailed as a great innovation in tracking an animal's history in terms of its breed, origin and owner's details as well as tackling stock theft.

The teams are expected to head to the Zululand District to begin their vaccinations in all five local municipalities.

Mtubatuba

Cattle vaccinated = 18 304

Big 5 Hlabisa

Cattle vaccinated = 25 191

Total for UMhlabuyalingana = 56 448

Total for Jozini = 74 359

ENDS.

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