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FMD VACCINATION IN KZN NEARS TARGET AS 9 OF 11 DISTRICTS COMPLETE FIRST ROUND

Immunity levels against Foot-and-Mouth Disease in KwaZulu-Natal are nearing target levels, with 9 out of 11 districts having completed the first round of vaccination.

The disease was declared a national disaster early this year, with KwaZulu-Natal emerging as an epicentre of the outbreak. This forced a mass vaccination drive aimed at vaccinating the province's estimated 2.5 million cattle. King Cetshwayo and iLembe districts have just completed their vaccinations, inoculating 90 400 and 36 400 vaccines to animals, respectively.

Meanwhile, mop-up vaccination campaigns are currently underway in few districts. The aim is to ensure no cattle are left behind and to achieve herd immunity of over 80% across the province.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Women's Day Commemoration event at Jeffrey Zungu Sports Ground in Ixopo, MEC for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, said she is satisfied with the progress made so far.

She expressed confidence that her veterinary-led teams will complete the first phase of vaccinations within the stipulated six-month period following their commencement in late February 2026.

"We are only left with two districts - uMzinyathi and Amajuba. I am confident that by the end of August we should have vaccinated most of the cattle in KwaZulu-Natal. After that we will be beginning with the second phase of vaccinations," said the MEC.

"The vaccination programme has also helped us come to terms with some of the challenges affecting our farmers, as well as establishing an accurate cattle census. We will then conduct dip tank assessments in order to determine the state of these facilities," the MEC concluded.

ENDS.

ISSUED BY:

KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

