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DATE: 09 JULY 2026

MEC KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA COMMENDS PROGRESS AS KZN NEARS COMPLETION OF PHASE 1 FMD VACCINATION

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has to date vaccinated over 1 350 000 animals against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) since the start of its mass vaccination drive in late February 2026.

Veterinary-led operations are currently underway in Alfred Duma Local Municipality in the uThukela District. These operations are expected to continue until 13 July 2026 in this local municipality.

To date, vaccinations have been completed in Okhahlamba and Inkosi Langalibalele Local Municipalities in uThukela District, where 50 173 and 72 924 animals have been inoculated respectively.

Six districts are now fully covered;

Ugu, Harry Gwala, uMkhanyakude, Zululand, uMgungundlovu, and eThekweni.

Following uThukela, teams will move to King Cetshwayo and iLembe Districts, before concluding in Amajuba and uMzinyathi Districts.

It is anticipated that Phase 1 of the mass vaccination campaign will be completed by the end of August 2026.

KZN MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mrs Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has commended the veterinary teams, livestock farmers' associations, and the public for their cooperation.

"We have completed vaccinating cattle in six districts already, and the farmers are satisfied with the mass vaccination plan. We are resuming our operations in the 8th District next week. Farmers across Durban, more particularly in uMbumbulu, are phoning to express their happiness about our progress so far regarding the veterinary-led teams that have been deployed in their districts."

"It is our responsibility to safeguard the livelihoods of farmers and cattle owners, and we will remain supportive and attentive to their plight as government," said MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

"It is encouraging to note that the general public is heeding our calls to bring their cattle to the dip tank facilities. A good example is Okhahlamba, with a cattle census of 47 000, but we vaccinated just over 50 000. This shows the call is being heeded even by people who are not members of dip tanks, and in this way we are not leaving anyone behind."

The MEC also relayed the impact of the disease:

"The effects of the disease have been detrimental to our sector, whether you are directly or indirectly involved in the livestock farming industry. It has disrupted international trade and forced bans on our cloven-hoofed animals and their products, resulting in the declaration of a national disaster."



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

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Issued by:
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
KwaZulu-Natal

Enquiries:
Vusi Khumalo