KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12 FEBRUARY 2026

KZN AGRICULTURE MEC ASSURES ALL CATTLE IN THE PROVINCE WILL RECEIVE LIFE-SAVING FMD VACCINE JABS

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has unveiled an ambitious operational plan for mass vaccination at the Provincial Stakeholder Engagement meeting held at Mfekayi Community Hall in Mtubatuba. The plan was announced by the Department's MEC, Mrs. Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, following a meeting earlier in the week with key stakeholders, including AFASA, Milk Producers Organisation, Red Meat Organization, and KwaNalu.

The plan includes:

1. Vaccinating 2,000 dip tanks within 4-6 months, covering the entire cattle population of 2.45 million - both communal and commercial cattle;

2. Initiating vaccination in district municipalities bordering other provinces and countries;

3. Deploying 45 teams on a daily basis,

4. Capturing owners' and animals' details into the Livestock Identification and Traceability System;

5. And working with stakeholders to monitor vaccination in commercial herds.

Addressing the gathering at Mfekayi Community Hall, with scores of livestock farmers from uMkhanyakude District, the Department's MEC kaMadlopha-Mthethwa said she has confidence in her veterinary services, saying that her dedicated team would be able to administer mass vaccination programme and complete it on time. "I am assured that our capable team of veterinary services will complete the mass vaccination programme on schedule."

"Currently, restrictions on animal movement are in place, and special permits are required for animal movement, particularly in disease management areas. To support animal health, we are distributing antibiotics and disinfectants as part of our biosecurity measures, and we recommend a 28-day isolation period for new additions to the herd. While vaccination is vital, it is equally critical to stop illegal animal movement, which will yield great results in eradicating FMD," kaMadlopha-Mthethwa explained.

As of early February, with 18 thousand cattle sampled on farms and in dip tanks across the province, Amajuba District (6,187), uThukela (4,015), and uMgungundlovu (2,281) were the worst affected by FMD infections.

The MEC has reassured farmers that vaccination efforts would start in earnest upon arrival of the vaccines.

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














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