MEDIA STATEMENT
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MEC KAMADLOPHA-MTHETHWA DECLARES FMD AS ENEMY NUMBER ONE AS VACCINATION DRIVE REACHES 1.7 MILLION CATTLE

MTUBATUBA

The MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, Hon. Thembeni KaMadlopha-Mthethwa, has declared Foot and Mouth Disease FMD as “enemy number one” for the province’s livestock sector. This comes even as the department records a huge significant progress in the fight against the outbreak.

Speaking to over 1 500 people and farmers at the Stakeholder Engagement on Animal Husbandry and Food Security held at eMachibini Sportfield in Mtubatuba, uMkhanyakude District, the MEC said government is making steady progress in the fight against the disease, but cannot afford to let its guard down.

“FMD is enemy number one. It threatens our food security, our markets, and the dignity of our farmers. A healthy cow is school fees, it is lobola, it is insurance. We will not allow this disease to destroy what our people have built,” said MEC KaMadlopha-Mthethwa.

The Department has to date vaccinated 1.7 million out of the province’s 2.5 million cattle across 9 districts as part of its FMD containment and vaccination campaign.

Two districts remain outstanding: uMzinyathi and Amajuba, where vaccination teams will be deployed in the coming weeks to complete the first phase of the provincial coverage.

The MEC commended veterinary teams, traditional leaders, and farmers for their cooperation in dipping, movement control, and reporting of suspected cases. She urged communities in uMzinyathi and Amajuba to welcome vaccination teams and ensure all cattle are presented for vaccination.

“We are slowly winning this war, but the war is not over until every last animal is protected. Government is with you, and together we will ensure that our cattle are fat, our fields are green, and our tables are full," the MEC concluded.

The veterinary-led will resume its operations in uMzinyathi District with an estimated 285 000 cattle to be vaccinated this Friday, 21st August 2026.

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