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MEDIA STATEMENT

01 April 2026

ARC BOOSTS NATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE WITH ADDITIONAL VACCINE DOSES

The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) confirms the release of 20 000 doses of locally produced Foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine to support ongoing vaccination efforts and strengthen animal health across the country.

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, welcomed the development.

“The restoration of production capacity at the ARC is well underway with an additional investment into expanding the existing capacity over the medium-term already afoot. Over time, this will progressively reduce reliance on imports and ensure sustainability of vaccine supply in line with the national disease management strategy. Vaccine availability is a crucial part of this strategy and we will do everything to make sure that there is enough vaccine to reach our target of 80% vaccination by year end,” said Minister Steenhuisen.

During the release of the first 12 900 doses on 6 February 2026, the ARC set a target to produce 20 000 vaccine doses by the end of March 2026, as part of efforts to scale up local manufacturing capacity to meet national demand.

Scaling up local production

The ARC will continue producing additional batches of approximately 20 000 doses of SAT 1, 2 or 3 weekly to support animal health and veterinary services.

It should be noted, that while the current programme is to continue producing 20 000 doses of the SAT 2 monovalent on a weekly basis, production will be adapted in line with

prevailing circulating strains. In that regard, both vaccine composition and production timelines will be adjusted accordingly.

“By expanding our manufacturing capacity, the ARC provides farmers and veterinary services with timely access to the vaccines needed to safeguard animal health and food security across the country,” said ARC President and CEO, Dr. Litha Magingxa.

The surge in local manufacturing, combined with strategic international partnerships, has led to increase in protected livestock.

Since the initial release of the 12 900 doses ARC vaccine on 6 February 2026 and the importation of one million Biogénesis Bagó vaccine in Argentina and 1,5 million from Dollvet in Turkey, over 1.7 million animals have been vaccinated up to 26 March 2026.

During the month of April, an additional 3,5 million vaccine doses (1,5 million from Biogénesis Bagó and two million from Dollvet) will boost the vaccination efforts.

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Issued by: The Ministry of Agriculture