



MINISTER
AGRICULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X250, Pretoria, 0001; 20 Steve Biko Street, Pretoria, 0001
Tel.: 012 319 6000; Email: queries@nda.gov.za; Web: www.nda.gov.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

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MINISTER STEENHUISEN NOTES INTERIM COURT ORDER ON FMD VACCINATION

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, notes the interim order handed down by the Gauteng Division of the High Court relating to the procurement and administration of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccines.

The Minister notes that the practical effect of the matter is now largely overtaken by the gazetted Section 10 animal health scheme, which already provides a lawful framework for participation by private industry role players in the national vaccination effort.

Government has consistently supported a coordinated public-private approach to combating FMD. Millions of vaccines have already been allocated to organised industry structures, including the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO), while further allocations are being rolled out to feedlots, stud breeders and commercial farmers.

Minister Steenhuisen said his primary focus remains the implementation of the national FMD Strategy through the Ministerial Task Team and the Industry Coordinating Committee on FMD.

“Our objective remains to vaccinate at least 80% of the national cattle population with two doses of vaccine as swiftly as possible as part of South Africa’s pathway toward achieving WOAHA-recognised FMD free with vaccination status. This would unlock significant export opportunities for South Africa’s red meat sector,” the Minister said.

In demonstration of this commitment, since February this year, the Ministry and Department have procured every available local and international matched vaccine available. Approximately 13.5 million FMD vaccine doses from local and international sources have been procured as part of government’s intensified response to the outbreak.

“We remain unwaveringly committed to ensuring the success of the strategy and ensuring this outbreak is the last major outbreak of FMD and becomes a turning point in strengthening South Africa’s long-term biosecurity capability and defeating FMD once and for all,” Minister Steenhuisen said.

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For media enquiries, please contact:

Ms Joylene van Wyk

Director: Media Liaison Ministry of Agriculture

Email: joylenev@nda.gov.za or medialiaison@nda.agric.za

Mobile: 083 292 7399 or 063 298 5661

Toll-Free FMD Support Line: 0860 246 640

Email: FMDcommandcent@nda.gov.za

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