

**Foot-and-Mouth-Disease: In his capacity as Champion of Operation Sukuma Sakhe, Duma to push for the first vaccination drive to take place in UMgungundlovu as this is the worst affected district**

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma.

24 February 2026

Cedara College of Agriculture: In my capacity as the Champion of Operation Sukuma Sakhe in UMgungundlovu, I will engage President Cyril Ramaphosa, Premier Thami Ntuli and the MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Thembeni kaMadlopha-Mthethwa, that it becomes the point of entry and a point of exit for the first vaccination drive.

Today we met with key representatives of the farming community and other key role-players.

All structures engaged today are ready for the rollout of the vaccine.

As it was reported, the 1st 1 million doses of the vaccine arrived over the weekend.

KwaZulu-Natal has been allocated 200 000 doses. The second consignment of 1,5 million will arrive in the next week.

Farmers from this district are the worst affected as the first FMD case was reported in the UMgungundlovu.

We are aware that over 17 000 farms in KZN have been affected and the majority are from this district.

More than 201 livestock associations and deep tank committees have been affected in this district.

We are referring to more than 109 000 cattle.

We appreciate the hard work of commercial farmers and acknowledge measures that you have put in place to curb the spread of FMD.

Admittedly, we have also noted your concerns about the slow pace of government in terms of responding to the devastating outbreak.

We have discussed all your concerns at provincial cabinet level.

And we all agreed that that the Premier and us as MECs must go to our respective districts and ensure that we maximize on our strength as we correct our weaknesses.

The most notable strength in this district we have the Foot and Mouth Disaster Management Committee.

This is the first of its kind not only in KZN but in the whole country.

We salute UMgungundlovu Economic Development Agency for working with key stakeholders to establish this committee.

We appreciate the fact that this committee represents all farmers:-

- Commercial Farmers;
- Small Holder Farmers;
- Communal Farmers

In particular, we are impressed by the fact that you also have a FMD War room.

This type of work must be strengthened and be replicated across the province.

Finally, gave us a mandate to intensify roadblocks focusing on the movement of livestock in order to curb the spread. The Road Traffic Inspectorate will execute #NenzaniLaEzweni Operation in this regard.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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