

PRESS RELEASE
(for immediate release)

RPO THANKFUL FOR LIFTING THE BAN ON THE
MOVEMENT OF CATTLE BY MINISTER

The RPO noted with great gratitude the Minister's decision to lift the ban on the movement of cattle due to foot-and-mouth disease, with immediate effect. The announcement was made in the government gazette 11486 dated 8 September 2022 as well as a press release. The Organisation also expresses its sincere thanks to the Minister for taking into account all the representations of role players in the value chain due to the ban and its impact on the red meat value chain. The cooperation of DALRRD in this regard is greatly appreciated.

However, the RPO wants to encourage red meat producers to take care that all documentation is put in place and to act with the necessary seriousness and to be careful with the movement of any animals or the introduction of animals onto his/her farm. Biosecurity at farm level as well as the APAC biosecurity measures are now becoming crucial. Self-regulation must now also play a big role. The status reports received from DALRRD indicate that the disease is still spreading and therefore red meat producers must proceed very carefully by limiting movement of animals to a minimum.

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We want to assure members that the RPO, in collaboration with the national Animal Health Forum, is still working hard to establish a contingency plan for the future. The RPO and national Animal Health Forum are working closely together with an industry orientated technical task team consisting of, among others, international experts and DALRRD to draw up a medium and long-term strategy for the way forward. One of the outcomes of the strategy is to actively ensure that a vaccine is developed specifically for South Africa and that free market principles must apply here.

Producers must still bear in mind that foot-and-mouth disease is a state-controlled disease and this is the responsibility of government. The RPO therefore gives its full support and cooperation to government. It is the RPO's opinion that the solution lies in Private/Public partnerships.

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