

19 January 2026

Memo: To Members



Kwanalu: Reaction to the latest FMD Strategy released 14 January 2026

While Kwanalu notes many of the commitments made by the minister our overwhelming concern is that the execution of the proposed plan will take too long to materialise or not materialise at all.

Critical issues acknowledged from the press briefing

- Approval of the import of the Dollvet Vaccine
- A commitment to jointly revise regulations relating to
 - o Lifting of the Disease Management Area (DMA) regulations, and,
 - o Market access in relation to vaccinated (currently F-branded cattle).
- Commitment to a long-term national vaccination strategy including FMD Free with- and later, FMD Free without vaccination.
- Recognition that the FMD epidemic is a national disaster and worth being escalated as such.

Inadequacies revealed

- No submission of disease diagnostic samples to Pirbright for serotyping.
- No commitment to deregulation of vaccines to a degree that private companies can produce, import and distribute vaccines to farmers for own application in a similar manner to other Controlled Animal Diseases in South Africa (e.g. Brucellosis, Anthrax, Rift Valley Fever etc.)
- No short-term relief or market solution for livestock and dairy farmers currently vaccinated and/or infected by the disease.
- No comment on abattoirs, consumption of the fifth quarter or double pasteurization requirements of milk.
- No acknowledgement of the critical shortage of vaccines currently in the country.

Aspects within the briefing such as movement control measures are critical acknowledgements of ongoing state failure in terms of regulation, however increasing 'controls' while failing to deal with the market issues will result in oppression rather than resolution of the challenges faced.

Kwanalu advocacy priorities

- Urgent lifting of the regulations of the DMA
- Critical engagement with Pirbright for ongoing informed research.
- Mass procurement and vaccination by the state.
- KZN prioritisation by economic risk priority.
- KZN Data collection.
- Amend regulation of vaccines to allow for private production, distribution and application of vaccines in line with other controlled animal diseases.
- Viable and accessible market solutions for all affected producers (Including: terminal feedlots, abattoirs, fifth quarter, double pasteurisation etc.)

- Economically viable quarantine guidelines and avenues when a positive case is identified.
- Amnesty for producers in relation to declaration of FMD cases to enable adequate and transparent reporting
- Full transparency of state discussions, task team recommendations and strategy plans moving forward. Removal of the NDAs associated with the ministerial task team and an effective national strategy including status change with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), FMD infection national compartmentalisation, local and international trade enhancement and National Disaster Status where appropriate.

Kwanalu maintains a collective effort of mandated leadership who must rise to direct this critical matter affecting farmers. Kwanalu will continue to act with clear principled direction and remain a key influencer in the resolution of this crisis.

Prepared by Kwanalu.



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