

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

## **MESSAGE FROM THE MEC**

Greetings to all the citizenry of Limpopo and neighboring provinces, I am Nandi Ndalane the MEC for Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Limpopo province experienced a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in Collins Chabane and Thulamela Local Municipalities in Vhembe.

Limpopo is one of the provinces greatly affected by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease. FMD as it is popularly known is a viral disease affecting cloven hoofed animals. The outbreak is currently in Vhembe and Mopani where animal movement has been restricted. The Department is currently on the drive to vaccinate animals in all affected areas. Cattle owners are advised to take their animals for vaccination and screening.

We appreciate the cooperation we are getting from the cattle owners and further call on our communities to immediately report any identified symptoms of FMD to Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Veterinary Services near you. Cattle owners are warned that moving their livestock without veterinary movement permit is illegal and those found will be prosecuted. Working together we can beat this disease which has the potential to have negative impact on our red meat industry and our economy.

I Thank you