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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NOTICE | RELEASE OF ANIMAL HEALTH BIOSECURITY TECHNICAL TASK TEAM REPORT

The National Animal Health Forum (NAHF) took with appreciation note of the Ministerial Animal Health Biosecurity Technical Task Teams' Report.

We would also like to congratulate the Minister on her 2023 budget speech and the constructive and transparent debate thereafter.

The NAHF together with the nine Provincial Animal Health Forums pledges our commitment to supporting and applying the short-, medium- and long-term recommendations of the Biosecurity Task Team to realize the goals of the Agriculture Master Plan (AAMP).

The NAHF acknowledges that both informal and formal Public-Private Partnerships will be vital to realize this ideal. A concerted effort between the government and the animal industries will also be crucial to address the animal health and biosecurity challenges.

The NAHF also supports the recommendation of the Task Team for the Minister to urgently consider replacing the current Animal Diseases Act by promulgating the Animal Health Act, already approved, and signed by the President as Act 7 of 2002. By doing this, many of the shortcomings indicated in the report on veterinary service delivery, could be addressed and resolved.

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The NAHF appreciates the robust discussions that were held with the Minister and her management team on the ongoing crisis with vaccine supply for animal diseases. The way in which the current vaccine crisis has been dealt with by the Ministry is commended. Some solutions have already been implemented. The NAHF will give inputs on how to ensure that critically needed vaccines will be released soon for distribution.

The NAHF is of the opinion that the OBP is and always will be a national strategic key point for animal vaccine production. OBP should also remain a major role player together with the private sector to produce vaccines, not just for South Africa, but also globally.

To address all the challenges mentioned in the report of the Biosecurity Task Team, it is clear that the focus should shift towards collective implementation between the public and private sectors in the animal health domain. The NAHF on behalf of the livestock production and animal health industry are committed to giving our full support.

The NAHF would support a formal implementation plan to realize the recommendations of the Task Team and would gladly offer our dedicated assistance in drafting and implementing such a plan.

Queries:

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