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**Media Statement
24 August 2021**

MINISTER DIDIZA APPOINTS THE MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM ON ANIMAL BIOSECURITY WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA

The Minister Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Ms. Thoko Didiza, MP has appointed a Ministerial Task Team on Animal Biosecurity with special emphasis on Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.

The purpose of this task team is to find mechanisms and provide recommendations on a range of key decisions whereby a collaborative initiative between government and private sector through a public private partnership (PPP) can be established to tackle the country's animal biosecurity issues.

The Task Team will also be responsible for issues which will include and not limited to realistic strategies with the intent to have an outcome that can be implemented by affected stakeholders. Focus on the complexity of the overall animal and public health system in a "One Health" approach, liaise with technical task teams of African Swine Fever (ASF), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Avian Influenza (AI). It will consider the roles of provincial government laboratories and private sector laboratories in disease monitoring, residue tests, meat hygiene with emphasis on all stakeholders' consideration.

The following team of experts which is largely independent but with significant government and international experience are:

1. Prof. Johann Kirsten
2. Dr. Kgabi Mogajane
3. Dr Gideon Bruckner
4. Dr Shadrack Moephuli

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Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Reform:

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Muhasho wa zwa Vhu- limi, Mbuedzedzo ya Mavu na Mveledziso ya Mahayani uMnyango Wezolimo, Izinguquko Kwezomhlaba
Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya Ndzawulo ya Vurimi, Antswiso wa Misava na Nhluvukiso wa Matikoxikaya Litiko
Letekulima, Tingucuko Kutemhlaba NekuTufukiswa Kwetindzawo Tasemaphandleni UmNyango wezokuLima, ukuBuyiselwa kweNarha
nokuThuthukiswa kweNdawo zemaKhaya Kgoro ya Temo, Peakanyoleswa ya Naga le Tlhabollo ya Dinaga- magae Lefapha la
Temothuo, Kabobotjha ya Naha le Tlhabollo ya Dibaka tsa Mahae Lefapha la Temothuo, Pusetso dinaga le Tlhabololo ya Metsemagae
ISebe lezoLimo, uBuyekezo lwemiHlaba noPhuhliso lamaPhandle