

13 March 2023 – 30 June 2023



INTRODUCTION

DearSA embarked on a concern raised by citizens of South Africa peaked by shortfall supplies of animal vaccines by Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP). This data report provides a comprehensive overview of the DearSA campaign's efforts in combating animal vaccine shortages in South Africa. It highlights the background of the issue, the objectives of the campaign, key stakeholders involved, and the impact of the campaign on addressing the shortage.

Background:

Civil society has extensively researched the processes and highlights the role of Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP), a state-owned entity responsible for animal vaccine production. This campaign content mentions the dismissal of OBP's former CEO, Dr Andile Dyasi, due to misconduct and poor governance. Further to this, the current shortage is attributed to Eskom's power supply issues affecting OBP's vaccine production capacity.

Objectives:

The report outlines the primary objectives of the DearSA campaign, which include:

- Raising awareness about the consequences of animal vaccine shortages on the food chain, disease control, and animal welfare.
- Mobilizing public support and engagement to advocate for a reliable and adequate supply of animal vaccines.
- Collaborating with civil society groups, in particular, SAAI and political group, the Democratic Alliance (DA) to address the vaccine shortage through legal and advocacy efforts.
- Pressuring OBP as a state-owned entity to rectify the constraints and ensure effective vaccine production.

Stakeholder Actions:

- DearSA's review of public feedback to determine necessary corrective actions and increase awareness.

- SAAI's litigious journey with multiple stakeholders to address vaccine shortages affecting controlled disease spread, such as African Horse Sickness and Blue Tongue disease.
- The DA's collaboration with DearSA and other groups seeking urgent remedies for the current constraints through public pressure and awareness.

Impact and Progress:

- Public pressure took positive effect, resulting in OBP manufacturing approximately 25,000 African Horse Sickness Vaccines – announced on 31 May 2023.
- Continued efforts required to address the outstanding vaccination needs and ensure a comprehensive vaccine supply.
- Increased awareness among farmers, horse owners, and livestock owners about the consequences of the vaccine shortage on legislative compliance and animal welfare.

Challenges and Future Steps:

- OBP's ability to meet the ongoing demand for various vaccinations.
- The need for sustained pressure on OBP and other relevant stakeholders to prioritize vaccine production.
- Continued collaboration between DearSA, SAAI, the DA, and other stakeholders to ensure long-term solutions and prevent future shortages.

<https://dears.africa/have-your-say-on-the-animal-vaccine-shortage/>

RESULTS

Included on the web page was:

1. The published related documents as downloadable PDFs – published opinion pieces and related documents.
2. A live view of public comments (with a counter and breakdown reflecting number of participants)
3. Links to relevant media articles
4. A portal which posed five questions (with the option of multiples responses to each question)
5. A comment facility to provide input on the Amendment.

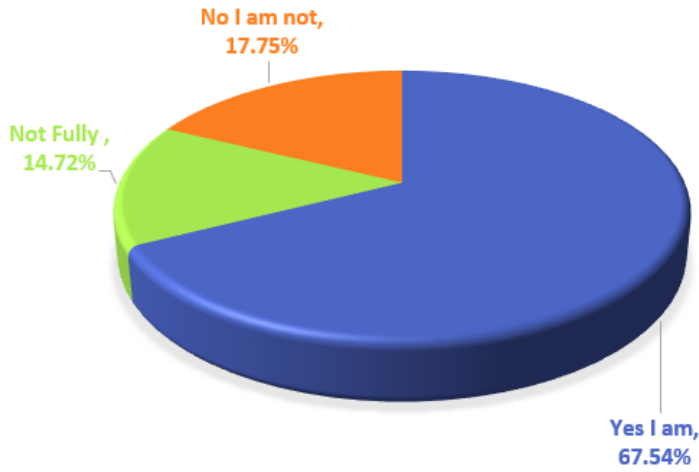
DearSA has captured all public entries which have been used to produce this report.

Note: To accurately reflect public comment, DearSA's projects are unbiased and hold no partisan opinion or agenda. Raw captured data is attached as an Excel file.

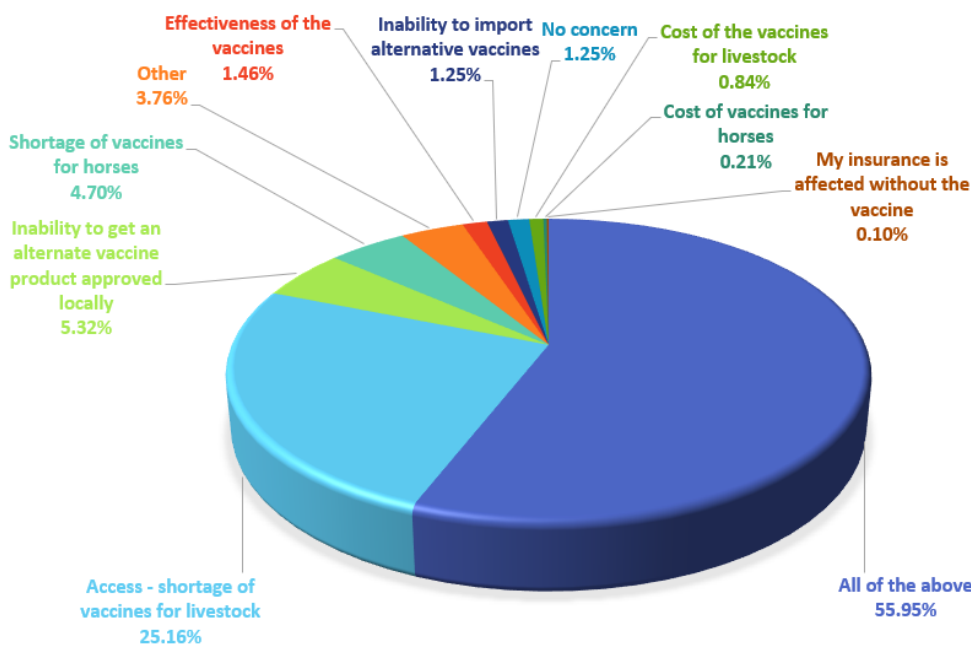
A total of 958 comments were received by 30 June 2023. This report reflects the entries received by the closing date. The participants are encouraged to provide comments to justify their selection to help shape the policy amendment.

Questions presented:

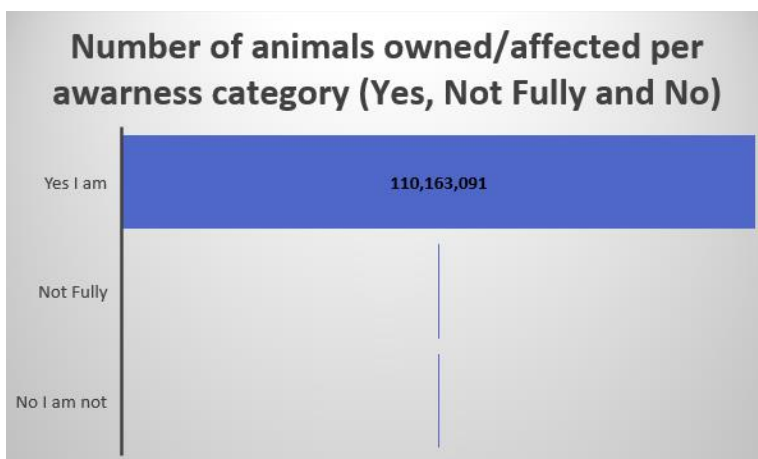
- 1) Are you aware of the current animal vaccine shortages?



2) What is your top concern?



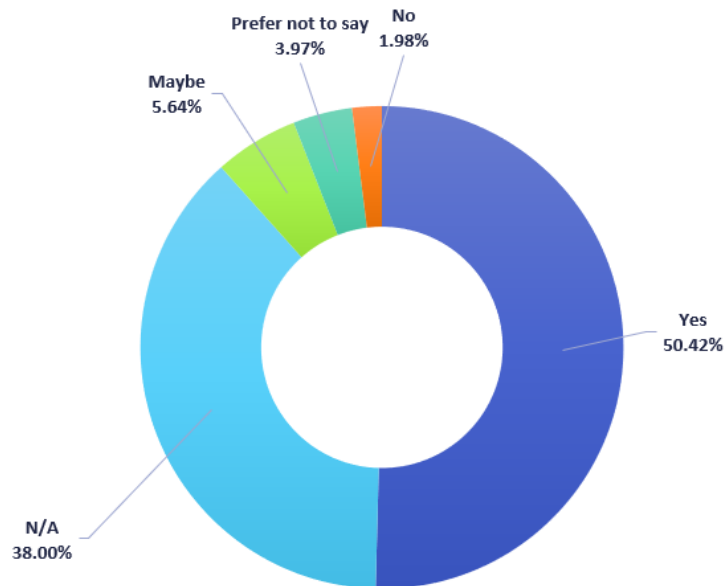
3) How many animals do you own that are affected by a vaccine shortage?



Yes I am aware: 110,163,091 animals
 Not fully aware: 930 animals
 No I am not aware: 57 animals

Combined total: 110,164,078 animals

4) Would you consider an approved alternate animal vaccine supplier?



COMMENTS

The participants are encouraged to provide comments to justify their selection to help shape the policy amendment.

Of the Yes comments, the submissions have outlined the following trends as a product of the main issues in these vaccine shortages:

- i) No management of controlled diseases in livestock (Blue Tongue, Foot and Mouth Disease, Slenkdal fever)
- ii) Prohibiting movement / transportation of animals
- iii) African Horse Sickness cases are growing and affecting the equine sector in a personal capacity and on a commercial level.

The public are concerned that the lack of availability of the vaccines started more than 5 years ago and has been on a steady decline, without any other mechanisms being considered by government to allow alternate vaccine suppliers. This shortage is forcing horse and livestock owners to contravene laws pertaining to Animal Welfare where certain vaccination programmes are mandatory. Without the supplies from OBP, this compliance cannot be obtained. Government cannot provide any guarantees that controlled diseases will be managed, increasing the risk of a disease outbreak. Compromised immune systems and large numbers of disease spread amongst citizens could astronomically crash the health system and result in severe food shortages.

The element of animal welfare has also been repeatedly mentioned, horses are dying painfully and tragically from not being able to receive the necessary vaccinations against African Horse Sickness (AHS) despite horse owners'

best efforts. The AHS vaccine strain is also unique to other regions as we host a variant stronger. Therefore, even if the availability to import this vaccine was granted, this may not serve to address the correct virus strains.

Suggestions from the Yes / do comments, include:

CONCERN	COMMENT
All of the above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Inability of the entire A N C group to govern any working facility or town! As they want big pay but can't keep a good governance of South Africa!" 2. "The collapse and total failure of all state monopolies illustrates the need to open up all key manufacturing requirements to the private sector." 3. "We were unable to get Blue Tongue Vaccine for our 200+ sheep in 2022 and struggled to get it in 2021 as well. This is a concern for all vaccines, the costs are getting too much for farmers to afford as well which will affect the consumer at the end of the day too." 4. "This shortage will affect the whole of South Africa. It is easy to blame everything now on Eskom but as usual, nothing was done to prevent the shortages. Competent people should be appointed to do the work." 5. "OP's machine to make in particular, the African Horse Sickness vaccine, broke down and they needed parts from other countries to fix it. In the meantime, plenty of people couldn't get their horses vaccinated. We have had an incredibly tough AHS season this year with all the rain, I can't say if all the horses died would have survived had they had the vaccine, but we will never know." 6. "Any farming, be it livestock or vegetables depends on electricity and on keeping the product line healthy. No farming, no food, no supply chain. ESKOM should be paying OBP from the R254billion just been granted to them. They need a solar plant." 7. "I have 4 cats and if the vaccine for farm animals is in short supply, I am sure we can expect that vaccines for pets will also be affected in the future. It is time that the ANC get their act together or give the country over to people that know what to do!!!!!"
Access - shortage of vaccines for livestock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "All our Cattle is affected because we cannot vaccinate them against Slenkdal fever." 2. "We own a family farm and the shortage of vaccines for cattle is affecting our business and threatening nationwide food security." 3. "I need bluetongue vaccine for my sheep to prevent them from dying."

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. "Very worried. This year lost about 20 ewes due to "bloutong" vaccination absence." 5. "The production should be in the hands of either private or preferentially in the hands of organizations directly involved with the end result of vaccine use." 6. "The media and the client farmers informed me. It is now for at least the last 5 years." 7. "Allow private sector to manufacture vaccines."
<p>Inability to get an alternate vaccine product approved locally</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "All the livestock walking in the urban areas, should become part of the food chain. These animals can be a big contributor to the crises in this sector. Government should realize the importance of healthy meat products for a healthy nation. Health first and money last." 2. "It is absurd that alternative vaccines and/or imported vaccines are not approved locally, which would prevent livestock losses. Is the government completely oblivious, or are they purposely contributing to agricultural regression?" 3. "If OBP cannot do its job, licensing approval for those who can, must be allowed. How can this country twiddle its thumbs over a critical food security issue? That's besides the utter cruelty of allowing thousands of animals to suffer hideous deaths needlessly. It is unacceptable." 4. "Ahs vaccine is outdated and not available. When it is available is certainly does not work. Look at the massive outbreak. I have personally lost 5 horses to ahs this year." 5. "AHS is pretty much fatal yet we're unable to vaccinate to even attempt to protect our animals. Also, it's compulsory to vaccinate, so the government is making it impossible for people to be compliant with its own legislation."
<p>Shortage of vaccines for horses</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "There are a few reasons why the lack of and inability to get these crucial vaccines for our animals is of such great concern. First of all, their health is at risk in certain seasons and at high-risk times of the year. Secondly, for competitive purposes we may not enter our horses due to them not having had their vaccines for a lengthened period of time. Onderstepoort cannot have the monopoly anymore. We need to let other pharmaceutical companies produce these required vaccines to ensure a shortage doesn't happen again and so that EVERYONE is able to get stock of vaccines for their animals." 2. "The government should be made to pay for every horse that dies. This is a tragic situation caused by incompetence and general uncaring attitude of government towards animals. As usual its money & they don't want any other pharma company to come up with alternatives where they would lose out on income." 3. "I live in a disease-free area; without vaccines we can't move our animals."

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. "African horse sickness kills thousands of horses every year and now where it an annual vaccine it is poised to kill tens of thousands thanks to the ANC's total inability to foresee the problems associated with Eskoms rolling blackouts. We need to change our government and get someone else to get us out of this mess and we need to allow non-state-owned entities to provide us desperate public with alternative vaccines for our animals." 5. "We lost 4 horses to African Horse Sickness due to shortages/non supply." 6. "Non availability of the horse sickness vaccine. Also wondering if the effectiveness is compromised." 7. "Willingly Putting an animal through the agony of an AHS death is nothing short of barbaric." 8. "There are not enough vaccines for African Horse Sickness (AHS) and also not enough research on AHS. It's affecting everyone in the Equine business, and we need to find a way to stop this from happening."
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The gov with their WEF friends are implementing animal injections with mRNA bioweapons. It is thus not a surprise that they want to destroy any production capacity of conventional vaccine. This is about food shortages, famines and resultant depopulation goals." 2. "I want the "Tried and Trusted" vaccines NOT mRNA shots." 3. "I am 91 and I was an animal farmer. About nothing is as important as having the correct vaccine overnight. I have experienced losing half a sheep herd also 2 bulls in one night." 4. "Treatment plan and medicine for horses with AHS."
Effectiveness of the vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Ahs is deadly and horses need to be vaccinated." 2. "Horses are dying due to the fact that the vaccine has never been upgraded even although the Ahs virus has mutated... it's ineffective." 3. "Besides poor availability, I question the effectiveness of the vaccine along with asking why are there no other vaccine strains available?" 4. "I do feel that this is a possible manipulation of the situation to encourage fast tracking of alternate vaccines (locally made and imported) without proper long-term studies which is most definitely not a good idea, as these are going to be ingested by millions of people without knowing the effects."
Inability to import alternative vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Current vac does not work and is not available, but we may not import."
No concern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Vaccines are the biggest scam, for animals and humans." 2. "Vaccination = Poisoning." 3. "My concern is that South Africa is still overly dependent on farmed animals which are part of the ecological disaster we call

	"climate change". Perhaps we can move towards more beans and less cows in the future?"
Cost of the vaccines for livestock	1. "With no vaccines there is risk of animals dying and food prices being forced up."
Cost of the vaccines for horses	1. No comments were submitted in this category.
My insurance is affected without the vaccine	1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Of the Not Fully comments, the participants indicated a blanket trend of distrust and broken-down faith in the long-term sustainability and growth of any state-owned entity, automatically including OBP. In addition, some of the suggestions received, indicated that OBP should be privatised to increase its efficiency back to where it was. Further to this, the public have advised that the importation of vaccines should only be visited as a last resort if local manufacturers are unable to fulfil the required vaccine quotas to ensure that the food security is managed.

Suggestions from the *Not Fully* comments, include:

CONCERN	COMMENT
All of the above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The Onderstepoort department of vaccines is a government department, say no more." 2. "I know of horses that have died causing pain and suffering to owners. As well as suffering to the horses." 3. "The government is largely disconnected from real business and real farmers and the challenges faced by these real workers and employers; they should try to do something right and honest (for a change) and help those in the workforce who grown food and generate taxes." 4. "The effect on food supply chain could be devastating!!!"
Access - shortage of vaccines for livestock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "It is very concerning to learn that government is hampering the successful functioning of yet another vital building block of our country." 2. "It's just so typical of this administration to mess up everything that was once a world renowned and operative entity and to now leave our country in this dire situation. How much further must we fall??" 3. "My main concern is the inability of the government to plan ahead and address problems." 4. "Humans were put on this earth to care for the animal population. If diseases can be prevented by the use of vaccines in animals and lead to reduce suffering of animals and their carers, then they need to be provided. The breakdown of the Onderstepoort facility (which was world renowned) is yet

	<p>another example of a government that does not care! There is an amazing facility (Biovax) in Cape Town which produces vaccines for humans. They Urgently need to be roped in to produce these critically vital vaccines.”</p>
Inability to get an alternate vaccine product approved locally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “THE ABOVE IS A GOOD STARTER, FOR ME.” 2. “If OBP is unable to produce or store quality vaccine, then: a) except the vaccine production facility of OBP from Loadshedding and, b) Bring emergency legislation to enable the importation of animal vaccines from manufacturers whose products have been approved in their country.”
Shortage of vaccines for horses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No comments were submitted in this category.
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “The corruption is so systemic in SA. The shortage of vaccines is being blamed on Eskom primarily, but load shedding has been around for 15 years. This is just an excuse to cover over corruption in another state-owned entity. The failure will lead to sourcing alternatives which have lucrative kickbacks for government agencies.” 2. “I am against any form of vaccines...they are poison. Never really solve any problem.” 3. “This is a huge problem. The farmer is the lifeblood of South Africa, or any country. Our farmers have in the past been well taken care of by the Government in times of floods, droughts, animals’ sickness and even bad financial times. The Government then, knew the place of the farmer and supported them. The Government now, has horrifically adopted the world system thinking and implementing it. Animals, in addition to not receiving the vaccines they need to keep them immune and healthy, are ALSO receiving injections that are cruelly affective to them AND to the consumer. A good farmer really cares for his animals. Their welfare in travel and in the abattoirs (although this is not the object of this particular aspect of Dear SA. The more than sad issue of the Onderstepoort Biological Products Institution “going under” for lack of financial support is another HUGE failure of this Government. This needs to be looked at and radically changed. The double issue of vaccines needs to be addressed
Effectiveness of the vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Covid has woken me up to what vaccine are all about. We should learn to live without pharma and go totally organic. Until I know more, I don’t trust anything that mentions vaccine.”
Inability to import alternative vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Recklessness of authorities to take timeous action are a concern.” 2. “If they can’t produce, they must import but the animals need to be vaccinated.” 3. “Another SOE disaster looming.”

No concern	1. No comments were submitted in this category.
Cost of the vaccines for livestock	1. No comments were submitted in this category.
Cost of the vaccines for horses	1. No comments were submitted in this category.
My insurance is affected without the vaccine	1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Of the *No I do not comments*, the respondents unanimously indicated that the vaccine programme of the animals is in a fragile state caused by OBP's poor management and were not aware of this present situation. OBP is known for being a well-kept organisation, and that the load shedding cannot be utilised as a mask to the problem. It has been identified by the public that the corruption and lack of support by the government has exponentially strained the current livestock industry directly affecting the food sources for the nation.

A small minority of the received comments indicated that meat should not be consumed at all.

Suggestions from the *No I do not comments*, include:

CONCERN	COMMENT
All of the above	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Corruption and bad management." 2. "Allow private manufacturing of needed vaccines! Cut red tape RE above plus for importing of vaccines. DO everything in your power to solve issue!! Compensate farmers for animal losses. Stop wasting SA Citizens money by having to destroy vaccines that become unusable because of e.g., loadshedding, etc." 3. "Another item in the increasing cascade of a failed government." 4. "As livestock is important to us all it is important that our government tend to the concerns. As humans need some vaccines to keep them healthy and protect them so does the livestock." 5. "It is very sad to hear that there are a shortage of vaccines for livestock and horses. The shortage and cost of vaccines for livestock affects the food chain which is not just a concern for those consuming meat, but milk products for babies and young children, especially. We ask you to please find a speedy resolution to fix this urgent situation."
Access - shortage of vaccines for livestock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Food Security and Correct type of Vaccines availability." 2. "Allocated money for above should be readily available."

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. "How can SA afford to lose stock and ultimately food supply? This is disgraceful." 4. "Onderstepoort to be privatized."
Inability to get an alternate vaccine product approved locally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "It is of the utmost concern that the red tape be done away with. The incompetence in letting it even get to this stage is horrendous." 2. "South Africa had a world class Onderstepoort Institution which was able to teach the world. Why is it no longer available. Another Eskom???" 3. "If our livestock is not protected we will see short supplies of meat & by products escalating prices even further. Very sad to read authorities have no stock."
Shortage of vaccines for horses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No comments were submitted in this category.
Other	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "I do not support alternate vaccines locally. I most definitely do not support importing alternate vaccines. With the advent of the mRNA vaccines and the harms that they have inflicted on so many humans worldwide, and the fact that they want to start using these mRNA vaccines on animals, I do most definitely not support any alternative to the traditional vaccines or any outsider manufacturing these vaccines, as I would not want any animal ever vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine - I would rather they are not vaccinated at all." 2. "I feel that inhuman factory animal farming should stop altogether, better for humans, animals and the environment."
Effectiveness of the vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Short of sounding like a conspiracy theorist, too much has taken place over the past couple of years that has brought serious concern over the usage of vaccines and the opportunity for evil intentions by those producing and owning the manufacture of these products. It is being touted by reliable sources, that the intention to introduce the mRNA into animal vaccines is the next avenue on the cards. I have personally witnessed permanent injuries to family, friends and others having taken these jabs..."
Inability to import alternative vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "The government must admit that they failed our people and must do whatever it takes to rectify this crisis."
No concern	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Stop eating animals!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!" 2. "Why are they vaccinating the livestock, if it's covid I'm totally against it, it's a scam."
Cost of the vaccines for livestock	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "No or very little support for farmers and interventions to prevent food shortages by the government."
Cost of the vaccines for horses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No comments were submitted in this category.

My insurance is affected without the vaccine

1. No comments were submitted in this category.

Conclusion:

The report concludes by emphasizing the importance of the DearSA campaign and stakeholder efforts in addressing the animal vaccine shortage in South Africa. It underscores the need for continued advocacy, collaboration, and pressure on OBP to ensure a reliable supply of vaccines, thereby safeguarding the food chain, disease control, and animal welfare.

The Dear South Africa Team would like to thank you and fellow collaboration partners for your valuable input on this campaign.

#**D**emocratically
#**E**ngaged
#**A**ctive
#**R**esponsible

Yours sincerely,

DearSA

END OF REPORT
