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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### For Immediate Release

**Date: 29 August 2023**

**SUBJECT: ANIMAL BRANDING IN CUTHWINI VILLAGE, LUSIKISIKI.**

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On August 28, 2023, the Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency, the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), and the South African Police Service (SAPS) Stock Theft Unit launched an animal branding program in Cuthwini Village, Lambasi Administration Area, Lusikisiki.

Ntinga, DRDAR, and SAPS are working together on a program to help farmers in OR Tambo brand their animals. This is important for preventing stock theft and resolving disputes related to animal identification. Livestock identification is part of Ntinga's efforts to support local farmers and their participation in the red meat economic value chain.

The Cuthwini animal branding program was initiated by the ILambasi Farming Co-op and spearheaded by its chairperson, Mr. Mxolisi Luthuli. Local farmers, who are also members of the Co-op, turned up in large numbers to ensure their animals could be easily identified and traced. The headman of Cuthwini Village, Mr. Mpongo Mdiya, expressed his delight at the continued assistance from Ntinga and DRDAR with farming programs. He urged all local farmers to brand their animals, even though some may be hesitant. Nevertheless, he emphasized that they would persist in persuading them as it is the right thing to do.

118 animals were branded according to Ms. Nontlantla Matatshi, the manager of O.R. Tambo Farms. "This is a requirement for farmers who wish to supply UMzikantu Red Meat Abattoir, as the enterprise only accepts branded animals", she said.

The Flagstaff SAPS stock theft unit advises all emerging farmers to apply for the new animal branding system, as it is a legal requirement under the Control of Movement of Stock Act 57 of 1959 and the Animal Identification Act 6 of 2022.

To apply for animal branding, farmers must have animals, a stock card from a veterinarian's office, and must follow the vaccination programs of the vet to update the stock card. Each

farmer must fill out an application form available from DRDAR offices, Ntinga O.R. Tambo Offices, or online at [www.dalrrd.gov.za](http://www.dalrrd.gov.za).

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This statement was issued by the Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Communications and PR Unit.