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MEDIA STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

Date: 30 November 2023

SUBJECT: HEIFER EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2023.

On November 30, 2023, the Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency, continued with its heifer exchange program for the year 2023. Farmers from Ingquza Hill Local Municipality gathered at Adam Kok Farms in Kokstad to exchange their cows for heifers.

Adam Kok Farms, also known as O.R. Tambo Farms exchanged 23 heifers to help farmers improve their livestock genetics to meet market standards. Ntinga O.R. Tambo Development Agency, responsible for Local Economic Development, requires at least three (3) out of every ten (10) cows slaughtered at Umzikantu Red Meat Abattoir to be from O.R. Tambo District Municipality Farmers for the next three years.

To participate in this program, farmers must brand their cows with an official mark from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD). To apply for animal branding, farmers are required to possess animals and a stock card from the veterinarian's office. They must also comply with the vaccination programs prescribed by the vet to keep the stock card up to date. The application form for animal branding can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DRDAR) offices, Ntinga O.R. Tambo Offices, or online at www.dalrrd.gov.za. Every farmer is expected to fill out the application form before initiating the branding process.

After receiving their branding certificates, farmers are assisted by Ntinga, DRDAR, and the South African Police Service in branding their animals.

For further information or inquiries, please contact Mr. M. Ndinga (Communications & PR Officer) at 083 369 0851 or 047 495 0715, or email mzolisin@ntinga.org.za.

The Office of the Chief Executive Officer, Communications and PR Unit issued this statement.