

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE

No. XXX

February 2026

**DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002)**

**CLASSIFICATION OF A NATIONAL DISASTER IN TERMS OF SECTION 23 OF
THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT (ACT NO. 57 OF 2002): FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE OUTBREAK.**

I, Dr Elias Sithole, in my capacity as the Head of the National Disaster Management Centre, after having considered reports submitted on the foot and mouth disease outbreak in the Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and the Western Cape provinces, and the impact and magnitude the outbreak have, or may have, I hereby give notice that, in terms of section 23(1)(b) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002) I regard the foot and mouth disease outbreak as a disaster and, in terms of section 23(6) of the Act, I classify the disaster as a national disaster.

Emanating from the classification, in terms of section 26, read with section 23 of the Act, the primary responsibility to coordinate and manage this national disaster, in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements, is designated to the National Executive.

I hereby –

- (i) in terms of Section 15(2)(aA) of the Act, read with section 23(8), call upon all organs of state across the three spheres of government to further strengthen their support provided to the existing structures to implement their contingency arrangements and to ensure that appropriate measures are put in place to enable the National Executive to effectively deal with the effects of this national disaster; and
- (ii) in terms of section 22(a) of the Act –
 - (a) read with section 20(2) of the Act, encourage organs of state, the private sector, communities and individuals to improve their implementation of targeted foot and mouth disease management practices.
 - (b) read with section 20(2) of the Act, encourage organs of state, the private sector, communities and individuals to refrain from practices that may increase the risk of the spread of the foot and mouth disease;
 - (c) read with sections 25(1)(c), 39(1)(c), 39(2)(k), 53(1)(c) and 53(2)(k) of the Act, and other applicable legislation, recommend that the National Executive, the respective Provincial Executives and the respective Municipal Councils, implement a multisectoral prevention, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation plan to deal with the effects of the disaster; and

(d) read with section 21(a)(ii) of the Act, recommend that each organ of state prepares and submits progress reports, in line with the requirements of the National Disaster Management Centre, to monitor the response initiatives by organs of state, non-governmental organisations and communities.

Furthermore, all affected organs of state must prepare and submit reports, as required by the National Disaster Management Centre and as outlined in section 24(4) to (8) of the Act.

The future revocation of the classification of this disaster, together with its preconditions, is set out in the Schedule hereto.

Elias Sithole

Dr Elias Sithole

Head: National Disaster Management Centre

Date: 05/02/2026

Schedule

<p>The National Executive dealt with the national disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements without declaring a national state of disaster in terms of section 27(1) of the Act.</p>	<p>The classification is revoked by the Head: National Disaster Management Centre when the occurrence can no longer be regarded as a disaster in terms of the Act upon reassessment by the NDMC.</p>
<p>The National Executive dealt with the national disaster in terms of existing legislation and contingency arrangements as augmented by regulations and/ or directions following the declaration of a national state of disaster in terms of section 27(2) of the Act.</p>	<p>The classification of a national disaster is automatically revoked when the national state of disaster is terminated or lapses in terms of section 27(5) of the Act.</p>