

Date	26 January 2026
To:	Teboho Mokoena MPL MEC: Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Free State Provincial Legislature
CC:	Elzabe Rockman MPL MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development Free State Provincial Legislature
From:	Roy Jankielsohn MPL Leader of the Official Opposition Free State Provincial Legislature
Subject:	Request to Declare Foot-and-Mouth Disease a Provincial Disaster

Dear Honourable MEC

I am writing to request your urgent consideration to declare the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak a provincial state of disaster.

Foot-and-mouth, which is a state-controlled disease, poses a serious threat to livestock, food security, and rural livelihoods in the Free State. Control measures at municipal level remain inadequate. Municipalities have a legal responsibility to regulate livestock movement through by-laws and to maintain accurate records of livestock on commonages and municipal land. However, uncontrolled livestock movement on commonages, roads, and municipal reserves continues, while illegal movement without permits persists amid weak enforcement.

As a state-controlled disease, effective containment requires coordinated vaccination efforts, movement control, clear communication to livestock owners and possible compensation for losses to the livelihoods of livestock owners. Municipalities, as the third sphere of government, share responsibility with provincial and national departments for reporting and controlling the spread of the disease.

A provincial disaster declaration would enable improved coordination across departments, the allocation of necessary resources, and strengthened law enforcement to effectively contain the outbreak.



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I urge your office to act with urgency to protect the province's agricultural sector and rural communities from the serious losses of income and jobs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jankielsohn".

Hon Roy Jankielsohn MPL
Leader of the Official Opposition
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FREEDOM. FAIRNESS. OPPORTUNITY. DIVERSITY.