

20 May 2022

PRESS STATEMENT FROM THE CEO – OBP CLIENT & STAKEHOLDER UPDATE ON AVAILABILITY OF AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS VACCINE

In keeping with the Onderstepoort Biological Products (SOC) Ltd (“OBP”) undertaking to its Clients and Stakeholders in the South African Equine Industry, OBP hereby issues an update announcement on progress in the production of its vaccines.

Sufficient progress is being made in resolving reported critical equipment challenges and the team continues to work closely with our OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers). As a further contingency measure and within OBP’s QMS production protocols, OBP is also evaluating alternatives, in order to ensure that when the vaccination season commences, the industry has vaccines available.

We wish to reaffirm our commitment as recorded in our last consultation, that a minimum of 20,000 AHS doses will be available in the red zone as requested by the industry.

As the country is preparing for the EU (FVO) visit later in the year, OBP is working co-operatively with all Equine Industry Stakeholders to ensure country readiness for the audit, in order to support the export of our animals to the rest of Europe.

Ends

For media enquiries, contact the Communication Officer, Ms Zipho Linda, on 067 8845429.

Issued by the Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP), an entity of the department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development