

MEDIA RELEASE Onderstepoort Biological Products: PSA calls for stability, good governance, and accountability

DATE 7 September 2026

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) has noted the intention to place the acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) on precautionary suspension based on allegations relating to the pricing of Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccines.

The PSA noted that the acting CEO has been afforded an opportunity to provide reasons why he should not be suspended, emphasising that a precautionary suspension does not constitute a finding of wrongdoing. The principles of due process and procedural fairness must therefore be respected, and the matter must be dealt with through a credible, impartial, and expeditious process.

The PSA calls on the OBP Board and the Minister of Agriculture to ensure stability and sound governance at the OBP during this period. The OBP performs a critical mandate in the manufacture and supply of animal vaccines and plays an important role in supporting animal health, food security, and the agricultural sector. Its ability to fulfil this mandate must not be compromised.

The PSA emphasises that public confidence and the trust of employees, farmers, and other stakeholders must be upheld through transparent and responsible governance. Should a fair and independent process establish wrongdoing by any official or executive, the PSA calls on the Minister and the Board to act decisively and without delay to ensure accountability. Equally, no person should be prejudged before relevant processes have been concluded.

The PSA will continue to monitor developments at OBP to ensure that the interests of the Union's members, institutional stability, good governance, and the public interest are protected.

END

