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## **VRYHEID AND ESTCOURT LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS**

The levels of stock theft crimes in the Province are unacceptably high and the organizations that work towards the prevention of stock theft are concerned about the large numbers of livestock, especially cattle, which are being stolen, and the financial implications to parties concerned.

The Province of KwaZulu-Natal has established a special committee called Stock Theft and Loss Coordinating Committee, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development on which the Department of Community Safety and Liaison is represented.

In January 2011 a stock theft plan was compiled by the Committee and approved by the JCPS Cluster. Branding of livestock is one of the programs outlined in the action plan. The number of unmarked livestock in the Province is a serious concern. The involvement and participation of all stakeholders that work towards the prevention of stock theft, is crucial in addressing this concern, hence the implementation of this program is vital.

Communities of Amangwe under the Estcourt Cluster, as well as Ngenetsheni under Vryheid Cluster, raised concerns and dissatisfaction in respect of various stock theft related issues to the Honourable National Minister of Police Mr Nathi Mthethwa during his tour in the Province, on 09 and 10 April 2011.

The campaigns will be firstly piloted in the two above-mentioned areas, before similar campaigns are extended to other stock theft “hot spot” areas in the Province.

### **Dates of Livestock Identification Awareness Campaigns in the two areas:**

- **16 July 2011- Vryheid / Ngenetsheni; and**
- **23 July 2011-Estcourt / Amangwe**

Brief compiled by the Communications Unit.