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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**11 APRIL 2023**

**MINISTER DIDIZA MEETS WITH SIZWE KUPELO FOUNDATION  
OVER PITBULL PETITION**

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza, MP has met with the Sizwe Kupelo Foundation over the pitbull petition. The Sizwe Kupela Foundation also handed over 139 000 signed petitions to the Minister.

The Minister did raise government's concern over the loss of lives and damages associated with this type of dog. She indicated to the meeting that there is work that government is currently doing to resolve the issue associated with this type of animal. "Amongst the work that is currently underway is the comprehensive DNA analysis of Pitbull and pit bull type dogs, to assist with correct identification of problem animals unique to South Africa. This exercise will also investigate aggression behaviour and will assist in identifying the pit bull and pit bull type dogs that may be developed through indiscriminate cross breeding.

The department is also working with the department of Justice and Constitutional Development, to amend Animal Matters Amendment Act of 1993 to ensure that citizens are protected from any harm and that owners of such animal are held accountable for whatever damages caused by power dogs and other animals. Key role players in the private sector namely Pit Bull Federation of South Africa (PBFSA) and the Centre of Applied Pet Ethology (COAPE) International have joined hands with the department to create a joint task team to identify short, Medium and long term practical approaches to promote safety of all people living with pit bull and pit bull type dogs to reduce and prevent injuries and loss of life on all fronts.



This is indeed an assignment that needs multiple government departments including Municipalities whom the department is envisaging to help in ensuring reviews, and implementation bylaws to better manage keeping of companion animals such as dogs and to ensure safety and welfare of both human beings, and animals, said the Minister Didiza




The Minister committed the department to work with all other relevant stakeholders to ensure that this issue is addressed to the satisfaction of all involved, especially to ensure that all citizens are safe from any harm caused by dogs and any other domestic animals.

**-END-**

**Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:**

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