

Articles

STATEMENT TO BE MADE AT URUNGWE RESERVE ON SUNDAY
AUGUST 10th BY THE PROVINCIAL NATIVE COMMISSIONER,
ON GOVERNMENT POLICY IN REGARD TO TRYPANOSOMIASIS
AND EVACUATION OF CATTLE.

We are met today for me to tell you what is going to be done by the Government in regard to the spread of disease caused by bites from the tsetse fly, resulting in the death of your cattle. As many of you must know, either by having been told when you came here or by hearing it repeated by those who heard it, there has always been a risk that the fly might come back despite all the efforts to control it.

When you were brought here it was stated by the Government that should your cattle die of trypanosomiasis here the matter of compensation being paid to you would be gone into. Regularly there have been inoculations of your cattle and special preparations have been mixed in your dipping tanks. Orderlies have been trained to take blood smears from the beasts which are not looking well so that the experts could test that blood for the disease and a fencing control has been introduced. The Government has done all that is possible to try and save your cattle, but the invasion of fly has been so great that these measures are now not proving effective.

Your cattle are now dying in great numbers from the disease and soon all your cattle will have died. After long deliberations, therefore, the Government have decided that all the cattle must be taken out of the Urungwe Reserve, the Crown land north-east of Pendennis Farm, land south of the Mkwichi River and north of the Naodsa and Chipapa Rivers.

Your goats, sheep and donkeys will be allowed to remain for the present to see how they get on, and the Veterinary Department will dip and spray them regularly, but no more goats, sheep, donkeys, pigs or dogs can be brought into the reserve.

In regard to the cattle the Veterinary Department will, first of all, have to decide which cattle are able to be moved and which are so bad that they cannot be moved, and this will be done at each of your dip tanks. Those that cannot be moved will have to be destroyed.

You will have a choice of two ways of doing what is wanted with the cattle that the Veterinary Department say can be moved. If you do not accept the proposals I put to you today, the Government will have no option but to destroy all your cattle.

The first is that they can be sold to the Government. If you do this, you will be paid out on the spot the value of your beast at current market rates based on grade and estimated live weight on the hoof. The Government will then pay all the costs of transport by truck and will take them to Salisbury to be slaughtered.

The alternative is for you to take advantage of a plan of moving cattle in small mobs from Tongwe Tank down to the Umfuli Valley between the Suseje Valley and Magondi Reserve. It must be understood that this can only be done with cattle that the Vets say can move. It must also be understood that if any of these beasts die on the way or at the other end, the loss will be the owner's and there will be no compensation, except that Government will pay compensation on compound grade at estimated weight for any beast certified to have died of trypanosomiasis within 3 months of date of leaving Urungwe Reserve. These cattle will only be lagisa'd on the north bank of the Umfuli, and owners must group together for herding arrangements. It will be 5 or more years before the cattle can return.

P.N.C.'s State
Urungwe
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their cattle herded there. Any stock found in the area south of the Umfuli River will be shot. The grazing here is only sufficient for 1,000 head.

In regard to the beasts which the Veterinary Department refuse as unfit to be moved. These will be taken over by the Government at each dip tank, or other suitable places. The owners will be paid out at compound grade and estimated liveweight. They will be slaughtered there and the carcasses removed as far as possible or converted into biltong.

Any beast which dies before it reaches a concentration at a Dip tank will be valued at £3 and that amount paid to the owner.

In regard to deaths of your cattle since October 1st last, you will be paid £3 for each animal shown on your dipping card as having died. In both these cases the hide is yours to sell, so that the price that you are being given is a fair one.

You must fully realise that no cattle will be permitted to remain in this Reserve or the Crown land near Pendennis, Mkwichi, Naodza and Chipapa.

If, after all cattle have been dealt with in the manner I have described above, any cattle which are found in these areas will be destroyed and no compensation will be paid to the owners.

I must again repeat that unless the cattle are got rid of by the means I have told you, the Government will have to destroy them.

We are going to make special arrangements in regard to your agriculture and your ploughing during the time that you cannot have cattle and these are being worked out.

Next Wednesday morning, a start will be made at Badze tank on the cattle which the Veterinary Department certify as unfit to move. These animals will be destroyed and the owners compensated by the Government at compound grade and estimated liveweight, and the carcasses removed.

Mr. Woods will give instructions which herds are to be called up for Wednesday, and the owners should come with them and bring their Registration Certificates and dip-cards.

After that, herds will be called up at regular intervals to the concentration points to be classified by the Veterinary Department into those that can be moved and those that cannot be moved.

Those that can be moved, will be taken over at Magunje at current market rates and taken away by lorry for slaughter. If the owners wish, they can move their cattle to the grazing at the Umfuli Valley to be lagisaled.

Those rejected by the Vets as unfit to move will be taken over, paid for and slaughtered at the concentration points.

JVK/KC.
9.8.1952.

Handwritten notes in a box at the bottom right corner:
F.N.C.'s statement
Umfuli
9.8.52
G. M. M. M. M.