FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All Media

DATE: 11 February 2026

ATTENTION: News Editors / Agricultural Writers

TERMINATION OF SOLE AGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN BIOGENESIS BAGO S.A. AND DESIGN BIOLOGIX CC – THE BIOAFTOGEN® FOOT AND MOUTH VACCINE

Recent reports by several media outlets have confirmed that Design Biologix CC ("**Design Biologix"**) will no longer be importing and distributing the Bioaftogen® vaccine manufactured in Argentina by Biogenesis Bago S.A. ("**Biogenesis**"), this after the sole agency agreement with Design Biologix was unexpectedly revoked by Biogenesis on 2 February 2026.

There is however widespread speculation regarding the circumstances surrounding the termination of the agency agreement between Design Biologix and Biogenesis.

At the Democratic Alliance's North-West Provincial Congress held in Potchefstroom on 9 February 2026, the Minister of Agriculture, Minister Steenhuisen, during an interview, implied that it was Design Biologix that had withdrawn its application to import and distribute the vaccine, thereby resulting in the agency agreement being revoked. This is incorrect.

It was widely reported in the media that Design Biologix was initially one of only two industry bodies and designated agents which had been appointed to import and distribute foot and mouth vaccines, Dunevax, in respect of the Dollvet vaccine from Turkey, being the other.

On 14 January 2026, Minister Steenhuisen publicly announced that Design had been appointed as the sole agent of Biogenesis in South Africa for the importation and distribution of the Bioaftogen® vaccine. Minister Steenhuisen subsequently repeated such statement on several other occasions.

Design Biologix can confirm that after it had been awarded the sole agency by Biogenesis on 15 January 2026, it, on 16 January 2026, submitted an application in terms of section 21 of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 to the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority ("**SAHPRA**") for authorisation to import and distribute the vaccine.

On condition that the required authorisation would be issued by SAHPRA, Design Biologix was in preparation to secure 6 million emergency doses of the Bioaftogen® vaccine from

Biogenesis between February and April 2026, which Design Biologix intended to make available for distribution at reasonable and competitive pricing.

On 16 January 2026, following the announcement that Design Biologix has been awarded the sole agency by Biogenesis to import and distribute the Bioaftogen® vaccine, Design Biologix approached the Department to request urgent engagements with all stakeholders to establish a way forward for the urgent importation and distribution of the Bioaftogen® vaccine.

Design Biologix received an immediate response from Dr Emily Mogajane representing the Department which informed that in terms of a decision taken, and because FMD is a State controlled disease, Onderstepoort Biological Products ("**OBP**") is the institution given the mandate to apply for the import permit for the vaccine and that Dr Modisane, Chief Veterinary Officer of the Department, would further engage with Design Biologix.

In a separate communication on 16 January 2026, Mr. Ramasodi, the Director General of the Department, informed Design Biologix that the Department was already in direct engagement with Biogenesis on arrangements to import vaccines from Argentina and that preparations were already underway to submit and conclude a section 21 application to SAHPRA through OBP, this whilst, at that stage, there existed no agency agreement between OBP and Biogenesis.

On 19 January 2026, representatives of Design Biologix requested an urgent meeting with Mr. Ramasodi to clarify the confusion concerning the authorisation process for the importation of the vaccine. This meeting never realised.

Also on 19 January 2026, Dr Jacob Modumo, the acting CEO of OBP, communicated with Biogenesis directly, and advised Biogenesis that OBP is the only company representing the SA Government to source FMD vaccines and that the administrative process for the importation of the Bioaftogen® vaccine would commence through OBP (and therefore not through Design Biologix). Drs Mogajane and Modisane were also included in this communication.

On 22 January 2026 a meeting was held between, amongst others, Minister Steenhuisen, Mr Ramasodi, Dr Emily Mogajane, chairperson of the ministerial FMD task team (MTT) and Chief Director for Biosecurity Co-ordination at the Department, Ms Jana le Roux, Chief of Staff in the office of the Minister, and representatives of Biogenesis and the Argentine Embassy. Design Biologix was subsequently informed by representatives of Biogenesis that the representatives of the Department present at the meeting made it clear that the Department preferred not to

work with Design Biologix as an intermediary, and that the Department would rather procure the Bioaftogen® vaccine directly from Biogenesis.

In a WhatsApp message sent to Dr. Buys at Design Biologix, Minister Steenhuisen denied that there was an attempt by the officials within his Department to sideline Design Biologix and that the Minister and others within his Department were working hard to fast track the section 21 authorization for the Bioaftogen® vaccine, in a similar manner that the Department did for the Dollvet vaccine. The Minister furthermore pointed out that FMD remained a state-controlled disease in terms of the legislation and the import and rollout of vaccines had to follow the protocols set out in legislation and regulation.

On 30 January 2026, Minister Steenhuisen's spokesperson confirmed that the Department "stands 100% behind Design Biologix's application" and would do nothing to delay or derail it.

Such circumstances preceded the letter in terms of which Design Biologix's sole agency agreement was terminated on 2 February 2026.

In a communication which accompanied the termination letter, Biogenesis confirmed that following a meeting with the Minister and several of the Department's officials on 22 January 2026, Biogenesis was advised that the Department preferred not to work with intermediaries and that Design Biologix should not act as an agent or intermediary.

Upon receiving the termination letter, Design Biologix had no choice but to retract its then pending application at SAHPRA for authorisation to import the Bioaftogen® vaccine.

Although unconfirmed, indications are that OBP, without the prior authorisation of Biogenesis at the time, and prior to the termination of Design Biologix's sole agency, already applied to SAHPRA for authorisation to import the same Bioaftogen® vaccine.

It is evident that, whilst the Department is willing to allow another designated agent and intermediary to import and distribute the Dollvet vaccine, it is, for reasons which have not been publicly disclosed, unwilling to allow Design Biologix to do so in respect of the Bioaftogen® vaccine.

It is unfortunate that Design Biologix with its proven capabilities and track record, has, in the manner it was, been sidelined as intermediary to procure and distribute the much-needed Bioaftogen® vaccine.

Design Biologix remains hopeful that the 6 million emergency doses of the Bioaftogen® vaccine would still urgently be procured for the South African farmers and feedlots to eradicate this ruinous disease that is devastating to the agriculture industry and the lives of so many.

Issued by:

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