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## OPEN LETTER

### Dr Mphane Molefe

Director: Veterinary Public Health  
Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
[MphaneM@dalrrd.gov.za](mailto:MphaneM@dalrrd.gov.za)

20 May 2024

Dear Dr Molefe,

As you know, and as is recorded on our [website](#), there have been significant breakthroughs recently in bringing a global end to the trade in living animals to slaughter in foreign countries. Last week the trade was [banned in Britain](#) while Australia instituted a four-year phase-out so that a [ban comes into effect](#) on 1 May 2028. The trade is already banned in New Zealand and India.

A recent shocking example of the absurdity of this trade involved a shipment of 160 000 sheep and cattle from Australia for slaughter in Israel. The shipment took a route around the continent of Africa and covered a distance that exceeded the circumference of our planet at the equator, in order to get there. Please see our story on this [here](#).

As you know, *Compassion in World Farming (SA)* has long since called for a ban on our trade in sheep and cattle to Mauritius and the Middle East.

Of **supreme importance** is the fact that this trade has become a flagrant flouting of the United Nations' new decree that, because of the psychological harm it wreaks, no child may be exposed to violence against an animal. All member states are now obligated to change laws and policies so as to accommodate this new **Right of the Child**.

Please see [here](#) for an in-depth understanding of this historic and ground-breaking initiative by the UN CRC.

As is clear from these photographs, taken in Mauritius, children are being exposed to horrendous violence perpetrated against shackled South African animals in the most grotesque of conditions. One of the children is clasping his hands in what seems to be a gesture of horror. Unknowingly, the adults taking part in this cultural slaughter are putting their children on the slippery slide to the erosion of empathy. The scientific implications of this erosion on our civilization are set out [here](#)



South African cattle on ship to Mauritius and trucked out of Port Louis...



*Compassion in World Farming (SA)* is calling for the trade in live animals from South Africa's shores to be replaced – as is already underway in Australia - by chilled and frozen meat that is culturally compliant with Halaal laws.

This will support South Africa in taking steps to become compliant with the newly instituted ***UN Rights of the Child.***

Lastly, may I ask please if the export of living animals to slaughter falls under The Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. If so, surely this Act must be urgently updated so as not to have living beings, identified as **sentient** in our Constitutional law, classified as '*products*' or indeed, *included* as products.

Please let me know your thoughts for possible inclusion in our next issue of **Animal Voice**.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise van der Merwe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

LOUISE VAN DER MERWE

**SA Representative** | Compassion in World Farming

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