



Reference: 16/2/11-2

Dear Valued Client

Renovation of the Provincial Veterinary Laboratory

In my previous letter dated 29 March 2022, I informed you of the pending renovation project at our Provincial Veterinary Laboratory (PVL). You would also have received a copy of this letter with the test reports sent to you since then. I am now able to communicate more specific details to you regarding this project and its impact on our service delivery.

The Department of Transport and Public Works has now appointed a contractor and it has been indicated that the project will commence on 24 October 2022. The project plan does, however, make allowances for the PVL to finalise testing before we need to clear out the contents of the laboratory. This will allow the laboratory some time in which to accept final samples from our clients, as well as ensure that test reports are issued.

Included in this communication are details on when the last dates for sample receiving for our various tests will be in order to allow for the completion of tests, as well as the issuing of test reports before the PVL shuts down on 15 December 2022. **Please note that no samples will be accepted after the listed dates.**

As of 15 December 2022, the PVL will be cleared of all furniture, equipment and all testing operations will cease. Once the renovation project has been completed, the PVL must follow an extensive process in order to re-instate its accreditation and DALRRD (Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development) approval status. Detailed plans are already in place to ensure that the process is completed as efficiently as possible and taking the associated timeframes into account it is envisioned that the PVL will be fully functional again as an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory by the end of November 2023.

Attached to this letter you will find a document titled "Alternative veterinary testing laboratories." We have compiled this document in order to assist you in identifying alternative laboratories which you could make use of for your testing needs during the period that our laboratory will be shut down. Please note that the use of these laboratories is for the client's account and by using a specific laboratory you enter into an agreement with the specific laboratory. To the best of my knowledge, at the time of writing this letter, all the laboratories listed do have quality management systems in place, and most are also accredited for at least one test method.

Once the renovations have been completed and we have regained the accreditation status of the PVL, I will communicate the date of test resumption to you as swiftly as possible.

The Department acknowledges that this project may cause certain challenges to you, our valued citizen, but we are looking forward to serving you from our renovated facility in a more effective process and results driven way and do appreciate your understanding and continued support.

We trust that you will find this in order and be assured of our continued support to the agricultural sector and its stakeholders.

Yours sincerely


Dr MP Sebopetsa
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

18/10/2022
DATE

FINAL DATES FOR RECEIVING SAMPLES FOR TESTING

Laboratory Section	Test	Last date for receiving samples
Bacteriology	<i>Brucella</i> culture	15 November 2022
	All other tests	25 November 2022
Biochemistry	pH, Nitrate spot test, Haematocrit and Gamma Globulin	30 November 2022
Food Safety	All tests	23 November 2022
Histopathology	All tests	11 November 2022
Parasitology	All tests	30 November 2022
Post mortem	All post mortem examinations	11 November 2022
PCR	All tests	1 December 2022
Serology	All tests	18 November 2022
Virology	All tests	31 October 2022

Please note that any samples received after the dates listed above will have to be returned to the sender at the sender's cost.