

**Position statement of the Democratic Alliance on
the export of live animals by sea**

9 May 2024

Good Afternoon

Please find attached responses on behalf of **Hon. Noko Masipa** to the questions sent to him.

1. What is your party's position on live animal export by sea? FOR OR AGAINST

I have issued a statement in my capacity as MP – refer below. My colleague, Ivan Meyer, issued a statement in his capacity as the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape where this incident happened.

On your first question, the Democratic Alliance staunchly opposes any form of inhumane treatment of animals during transit, whether by air, road, or sea. The DA has recognised the basic universal freedoms for animals, which includes freedom from hunger or thirst, discomfort, pain, injury, disease and fear or distress. The DA also recognises that animals should be afforded the freedom to express most of their normal behaviours. The DA is therefore opposed to any conditions which would violate these freedoms of animals.

While we do not have an official policy on the matter of live animal exports by sea, we are acutely aware of the harsh conditions that some animals endure during export and vehemently oppose any practices which result in the unnecessary suffering of animals. In instances where animal abuse is evident, we call for immediate action and expect law enforcement agencies to address these issues promptly.

2. Would you support a ban on live animal export by sea?

The Democratic Alliance operates as a democratic institution where policies on issues affecting its constituents undergo a thorough evidenced-based policy formulation process. These drafts are presented to the party's internal structures, and external stakeholders are consulted during the drafting process. Upon receiving a significant mandate of support, we proceed to adopt the policy.

Currently, we are engaging stakeholders on various matters relating to animal welfare. Following the conclusion of these consultations, the party may develop a policy position, which will be shared with stakeholders for input. All feedback received will be carefully considered, and the proposed policy positions will then be presented for adoption by the DA's highest governing body.

We are, therefore, unable to categorically state at this moment in time whether the DA supports or opposes such a proposal until all formal policy development processes are completed.

<https://www.da.org.za/2024/02/da-condemns-inhumane-conditions-on-al-kuwait-live-export-vessel-in-cape-town>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ6CGlDaAtw>

<https://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-news/south-africa/live-export-of-animals-under-fire/>

<https://www.news24.com/news24/southafrica/news/in-foul-wake-of-al-kuwait-cattle-vessel-mec-wants-powers-bill-to-include-veterinary-services-20240221>

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