**Template for letter to be sent to the Department of Agriculture**

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cc Stop Live Export: connect@stopliveexport.co.za

Dear Minister

**CALL FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO BAN LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS**

I write to you as a concerned citizen of South Africa, about the cruel live export of animals by sea that the South African government has failed to prohibit, despite the numerous harms inflicted and growing public outcry against the trade.

South Africans do not want their animals subjected to cruelty and suffering. South African people embrace the spirit of “Ubuntu”, which recognises the interconnectedness of all beings, and that humans are part of a larger and more significant relational, communal, societal, environmental and spiritual world.

Recently, both Great Britain and Australia have followed New Zealand and legislated a ban on live exports by sea. It is crucial for South Africa to follow suit and elevate its reputation as a conscientious and responsible trade partner.

Live export by sea is associated with numerous harms and a significant number of the animals die during transport. This suffering is due to various factors, such as heat stress, failure to adapt to unfamiliar feed, an inability to access sufficient water and/or food, suffocation due to failed ventilation systems, motion sickness, injury, cruelty at their destination, and catastrophic events such as ships sinking, cyclones, and livestock being rejected by importers upon arrival at their destination.

At their destination, these animals might be handled in a manner that would constitute an offence under South African law. South Africa thus cannot be sure that the animal welfare standards of destination countries are sufficiently rigorous and enforced. Destination countries furthermore often implement cruel slaughter methods, such as Halal or Kosher killing, which might be performed without stunning the animal prior to slaughter.

Live Export also creates greater potential for the occurrence of more zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19, which have considerable impacts on human health, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

The transportation of animals by sea inherently poses significant risks to their welfare, as they are unaccustomed to prolonged confinement in restricted spaces. In my view, it is simply not feasible to implement regulations that would sufficiently ensure adequate animal welfare standards in such circumstances. I therefore urge the National Department of Agriculture to fulfil its mandate to promote the welfare of animals and **prohibit live export by sea.**

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR CONTACT DETAILS}