

D Dispatch

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Plants at Glenmore kill cattle daily

PORT ELIZABETH — Cattle belonging to residents of the temporary township at Glenmore have been dying at an average rate of almost two a day since they were trucked up from Klipfontein and Coega last week.

A spokesman for the State Veterinarian's office in East London said yesterday 16 cattle had died, some of them from injuries incurred in transit from the former squatter settlements but the majority from poisoning caused by eating the deadly tulp plant.

Glenmore resident, Mr Tutu Gqukani said 21 cattle had died and two more were sick.

He said the cattle's stomachs would start to run, and they would then

lie on the ground and die. There were possibly 100 cattle at Glenmore, he said.

Veterinary experts said if an animal ate three or four of the tulp plants, it would suffer stomach purges and violent colic and die within three days.

The tulp, a bulbous plant with a blue flower, usually grew when there was not much other greenery around, and was in bloom now.

Cattle coming from areas where there was little tulp, such as Klipfontein, could only learn by experience, or by being fed a suffusion of the plant which would give them mild stomach cramps and hopefully warn them off.

Mr Geoff Antrobus of

the Rhodes University Economics Department said the loss of cattle could be a substantial blow to the rural black.

The animals were one of their chief status symbols

If a man owned four animals worth about R200 each, and his other worldly possessions were only worth another couple of hundred rands the death of one animal might represent the loss of 20 per cent of his total capital.

A spokesman for the Department of Co-operation and Development in Queenstown, said yesterday he was unaware of the cattle deaths.

He said more than R7 000 in pension money was paid out at Glenmore this week and more payments were coming. — DDC.