



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

---

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**MME JOY BERTHA MATSHOGE, LIMPOPO MEC FOR AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2015/16 POLICY BUDGET SPEECH**

**Venue: Limpopo Legislature**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

**Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**Honourable Premier, Mr Stanley Chupu Mathabatha**

**Colleagues in the Executive Council**

**The Chief Whip and Leaders of various Political Parties**

**Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;**

**Members of Parliament present here today**

**Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Malesela Dikgale and other Traditional Leaders in our mist;**

**Mayors, Speakers and MMCs from various municipalities;**

**Acting –Director General;**

**Heads of Department and other Government Officials**

**Representatives of Civil Society**

**Members of the Advisory Council of the Limpopo Department of Agriculture**

**Leaders of the business community and community organisations**

**Representatives of Organised Agriculture – AFASA, NAFU, Agri-Limpopo and TAU, NERPO and other formations that are representing farmers**

**Members of Communal Property Associations (CPAs)**

**Special Guests and Members of the Media**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Family members, Comrades and Friends**

**The Beloved People of Limpopo**

**Honourable Speaker**, Limpopo dubbed the bread basket of South Africa, is the northern most province in South Africa. It is our country's gateway to our continent, Africa.

**Honourable Speaker**, last year this Province of plenty was chosen to host the national World Food Day celebrations on 16 October 2014. This has afforded Limpopo Province an opportunity to highlight the plight of the poor and vulnerable at the same time share with the nation and the world our efforts and interventions towards reducing hunger and poverty. Our sincere gratitude goes to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, our Premier, the Food Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Country Representative to South Africa, food security ambassadors and members of the public for their support.

It is during this day (16<sup>th</sup> October) that South Africa and the world embarked on public awareness campaigns worldwide to highlight the acute shortage of food and strengthen solidarity in the struggle against the triple menaces of hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This **African National Congress (ANC)** government disbursed food parcels to **500** needy households in and around Musina.

On occasions such as this, it is perhaps, befitting to refresh our memories and reflect on the sterling contributions of **African National Congress (ANC)** and **South African Communist Party (SACP)** internationalists such as John Beaver Marks and Moses Kotane which are as incalculable as invaluable.

**Honourable Speaker**, our country has also recently lost one of its very outstanding sons of the soil, Comrade Collins Chabane, who had acquitted himself well in various portfolios as Member of Executive Council in this province and Minister in the Presidency responsible for Monitoring & Evaluation. At the time of his tragic passing he was at the helm of the Public Service & Administration. We must allow the affable spirit of this gentle gallant giant to inspire humility in us and as we embrace the **Batho Pele Principles**.

The spirit of the indefatigable Comrade Thembi Nedwamutswu continues to serve as a beacon that guides us to greater heights in our quest to bring a better life to all the people.

This policy budget is being unveiled at the time when the **United Nations General Assembly** has declared the year 2015 as the **Year of International Soils** to raise awareness about the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought in line with the objectives of the **UN Convention to Combat Desertification**.

Moreover, on the local front, we are celebrating the **60<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of our lifelong blueprint, the **Freedom Charter**.

This is a blueprint which specifically articulates the critical importance of land as a primary source of socio-economic empowerment, growth and development.

This document has been a leading beacon of light in spelling out the vision of the kind of society the **ANC** government is envisaging and striving to create – an open, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist society.

In the realm of agrarian transformation, the **Freedom Charter** has made this invaluable prescription:

**“The Land Shall Be Shared Among Those Who Work It”.**

The state shall shoulder the responsibility of providing support to those who work the land and the poor through the creation of an enabling environment for production.

Almost all our programmes demonstrate that efforts are being made along the lines articulated by the Freedom Charter.

At the provincial level, the **Limpopo Development Plan (LDP)** is one such roadmap whose comprehensive implementation will eventually see us successfully attain the objectives that were set by this historic blueprint.

**Honourable Speaker,**

The **National Development Plan (NDP)** provides all embracing guidelines regarding the creation of an inclusive rural economy and unlocking the economy’s potential to create one million jobs within the agricultural sector by 2030.

We all know that for our sustainable development endeavours to succeed, our people have to be an integral part of the exercise.

This is exactly the ultimate goal of the Freedom Charter when it proclaimed:

***“The People Shall Govern.”***

As Nobel Peace Prize laureate, **Amartya Sen** said:

***“Development is freedom.”***

**Honourable Speaker**, agriculture and rural development is at the heart of the Limpopo Government. It is part of our herculean mandate to ensure that we moved food from the farmers’ gates to our people’s plates. For us to succeed in executing this mandate, we must not allow any piece of land whatsoever, to lie fallow because this will be akin to casting seed on arid ground.

This Budget should therefore enable us to make contributions to the Limpopo Development Plan, especially in the critical areas of combating chronic hunger and poverty, and in the spirit of doing more with less, as Honourable MEC Phala emphasised when delivering the provincial budget speech recently.

Indeed, freedom is development.

### **Provincial Agriculture Sector Performance Overview**

**Honourable Speaker**,

As I have already highlighted, the policy mandates for agriculture are clear, as articulated from our national and provincial blueprint. The **ANC Election Manifesto** pronounces on creating decent work, sustainable livelihoods, contribute to rural development, food security and land reform.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has adopted the **Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)** in 2014, which also gives effect to **Chapter 6 of the National Development Plan (Integrated and Inclusive Rural Economy)**. The emphasis of APAP is on agricultural investment throughout the value chain of agriculture. This has also formed the basis for Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA) priorities for 2014/19, which seeks to achieve the following:

- **Increased agricultural production that contributes to food security and employment creation**

- **Comprehensive development approach focused at high potential commodities of the province**
- **Improve land utilisation**
- **Increased job opportunities in rural communities through value chain activities**
- **Improved market opportunities for small holder farmers**

Agriculture and agro-processing is among the key focal sectors to contribute to the growth of the provincial economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution and job creation, as clearly outlined in the Limpopo Development Plan, reflecting briefly on the sector performance, the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector annualised GDP performance was **1.7%** in 2013 as per Statistics SA regionalised GDP report released in November 2014.

Agricultural sector has recorded a slight improvement. The fourth quarter GDP report by Statistics South Africa, shows that agriculture, forestry and fishery sector performance has increased by **4.2%** nationally .This growth is attributed to increased production in horticulture and animal products, of which Limpopo Province continues to contribute as one of the largest primary producers of high value agricultural commodities such as potatoes, tomatoes, citrus, avocados, macadamia nuts and sub-tropical fruits. Citrus and macadamia nuts are also among the biggest foreign income earners.

**Honourable Speaker**, I am proud to share the good story that South Africa, under the stewardship of the ANC, has been granted the Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free export status by the **World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)**. This means that as a country, we can now export our red meat to the European Union, which we could not do for the past years due to our Food and Mouth Disease status. This positive outcome is a culmination of events and interventions following OIE mission to South Africa in 2014, from 30 November to 6 December 2014. This mission's intention was to assess the implementation of OIE standards on zonal freedom of Foot and Mouth Disease in hoven animals and progress made on the implementation of recommendations made to South Africa during the 2013 assessment mission. All three provinces that are prone to

the FMD outbreak were visited, namely, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal (KZN).

Agriculture as the primary economic activity in rural areas, has potential to create new jobs. The sector's contribution has been clearly stated in the NDP. According to the **Statistics SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS)** released in February 2015, the Limpopo Province agricultural sector continues to record constant growth in employment. From quarter 1 of 2014 to quarter 4 of the same year (2014) the sector had increased the employment by **25 000**. However, with the continual increase in the cost of production as a result of high inputs costs e.g. energy and fertilizers, the sector is vulnerable to losing this economic status. The department will continue to support smallholder farmers where possible to cushion them from this pressures.

The current dry spells reported in most part of the country, is also going to have a negative effect on our current summer crop in terms of the yields. We know on the other. We know that lesser yields means shortage in the supply, which in turn result in high food prices. We will continue to monitor the situation and advise our farmers accordingly.

### **Progress on Previous Policy Budget Speech Commitments and Review of 2014/15 Achievements**

**Honourable Speaker**, allow me to reflect on the commitments we made to this august house during our last budget speech and on other service delivery programmes of the department to the farming community of Limpopo.

#### **1. Advisory Council**

One of the gaps I have identified has been lack of synergies between our development support programmes, as a department, and other private initiatives by other stakeholders in the sector. I have established an advisory council to bridge this gap and in the spirit of together we move Limpopo and South Africa forward. I am proud to announce the members of the Advisory Council as follows:

- **Mr Willem Van Jaarsveld** from the AgriSA-Limpopo;
- **Mr Beria Motheta** from the National Farmers Union;
- **Mr Tshiane Mathidi** from the African Farmers Association of South Africa;
- **Ms Dakalo Magwede** from the National Emergent Red Meat Producers Organisation;
- **Mr Pilipp De Beer** from Transvaal Agricultural Union of South Africa;
- **Mr Mathobo** from the Association of South African Agricultural Educators;
- **Dr Tertius Bergh** – from the Meat Safety Industry;
- **Professor David Norris** from the School of Agriculture at the University of Limpopo;
- **Professor PK Chauke** from the University of Venda; and
- **Kgoshi Malesela Dikgale** – the Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders

## **2. Revitalisation of Small Scale Irrigation Schemes (RESIS)**

**Honourable Speaker**, in our quest to enhance food security, support to farmers and rural communities to produce food remains our main priority. As also highlighted in the State of the Province Address by our Hon Premier Chupu Mathabatha, the revitalisation of small scale irrigation (RESIS) is one of the programmes that have been identified as enablers to contribute to increasing food production capacity of the Limpopo Province.

The RESIS programme is mainly about the repair of the infrastructure and improving operational models, wherein the department should work with the communities in finding suitable models to operate the schemes.

Let me acknowledge that in this financial year we experienced few challenges in getting some of the irrigation schemes back in production. Among the challenges encountered was the inability to complete infrastructure revitalisation due to disagreements among members of the schemes. I wish to advise that we are working with the communities, traditional leaders and local municipalities to find solutions to this, for we believe in the potential of these irrigation schemes in contributing towards food security and job creation.

So far, work on infrastructure improvements at Mapela and Phetwane schemes is in progress and will be completed in the 2015/16 financial year.

In the outgoing financial year, we completed repairs at the Onder Gompies dam for the support of water supply to Zebedela Citrus Estate at a total cost of R 6.9 million. The dam now complies with the safety regulations set by Department of Water and Sanitation.

In the 2015/2016 financial year, focus will be on repair works at Mogalatsane and Badfontein Irrigation Schemes in Sekhukhune. Given the high costs of these upgrading and repairs I take this opportunity to make a humble plea to our communities to take good care of these assets.

Our disagreements should not affect this noble course as these are our investments as members of the public and aimed at assisting you to sustain your livelihoods. We are calling upon the traditional leadership and the civil society to assist in advocating for the safeguarding of this infrastructure, to ensure continuity of production.

The construction, maintenance and repair of these schemes is an indispensable pillar of the achievement of Fetsa Tlala programme.

### **3. Fetsa Tlala Integrated Food Security Programme**

*I counted ribs on his concertina chest  
Bones protruding as if chiselled  
By a sculptor's hand of famine  
He looked with glazed pupils  
Seeing only a bun on some sky-high shelf  
The skin was pale and taut  
Like a glove on a doctor's hand  
His tongue darted in and out  
Like a chameleon's  
Snatching a confetti of flies  
O! Child,  
Your stomach is a den of lions  
Roaring day and night*

The scenario painted in the work of one of our country's prominent poets, **Oswald Mbuyiseni Mtshali**, is of a portrait that is synonymous with apartheid colonialism and its associated legacy.

This is what we are seeking to eternally annihilate through the implementation of the **Fetsa Tlala Integrated Food Security Programme**.

**Honourable Speaker**, major strides have been made in this area. In the current financial year, we supported subsistence and small-holder farmers to plough their fields, mostly in communal dry land areas. This support included the costs of mechanization and production inputs supply (seeds and fertilizers), mainly through our **Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASAP)** and **Ilima-Letsema** programmes.

The grant for Ilima - Letsema contributed **R46 Million** while Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (**CASAP**) contributed **R47 million**.

For 2015/16 financial year we have set aside about **R113 million** for food production support programmes towards Fetsa Tlala programme. This allocation is to support farmers with production inputs and ploughing costs.

**Honourable Speaker**, I would like to make an appeal to our farmers and communities that this programme of Fetsa Tlala is meant to assist and support you to produce food. It is not meant to be a quick money-making scheme. I acknowledge the challenges we experienced this year and as the Hon Premier has tasked me, I have instituted a team of risk managers to investigate the allegations that were reported. I have also established a technical committee in the department, which its main function is to ensure proper systems are in place in terms of planning and monitoring of the Fetsa Tlala programme. The input of the Advisory Council will also be sought.

We remain eternally grateful to all the traditional leaders for availing land to communities. ***Re pshapsha diatla re thinya dikhuru go lena maaparankwe re re a re shomishaneng mmogo re tla fenya leswina la tlala mo ditshabeng tsa rena.*** Together we are pushing the frontiers of poverty backwards.

We know very well that it is the traditional leaders who are the custodians of our ancestral land, which is the birth right we were once robbed.

Indeed, you grasp the message and spirit of the Freedom Charter and the National Development Plan.

It is also a great pleasure to share with this august house that the Department is working with **Agricultural Research Council (ARC), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)**, research institutes in East Africa and various seed companies on the development of drought resistance seed cultivars. One of them is **Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA)**, which was launched in Limpopo in 2014. **Twenty three (23)** farmers in Mopani and Capricorn districts have participated in the research trials for this cultivar.

Furthermore, **10** previously disadvantaged farmers from Capricorn District are working with **Jermaat Seed Company** in the production of certified maize and sorghum seeds. Jermaat is the first black owned seed company in South Africa and from Limpopo. The Department supported this initiative by procuring these seeds and which that were distributed to farmers as part of the production input support programme during this past planting season. We are calling on our farmers to support this initiative.

***There can be no food security without seed security.***

### **Community Milling Facilities**

**Honourable Speaker**, Fetsa Tlala programme is meant to support communities to produce food crops, primarily for food security at household level and disposal of surplus produce for income generation. Maize and sorghum are mainly for this purpose, as they also serve as staple food for the majority of our people. Therefore, with the expansion of maize production as a result of the Fetsa Tlala Food Security Programme, the department saw it fit to support communities on milling facilities which will see the final product in the form of maize meal/sorghum meal. We will be conducting a situational analysis focusing on grain processing activities in rural areas. As part of our intervention we will provide support to the existing community milling projects and support the development of new ones where needed.

Linked to this, I would like to share with this august house, our partnership with Anglo American Platinum Mine led by Mr Ted Mehran Muhajir and his team wherein communities are supported to establish feed mills. We are also working together with DAFF to provide prototype silos to various communities for the storage of grains. **60** silos have been distributed so far, to **13** villages in Sekhukhune, Capricorn and Mopani districts.

These are some of the projects that the Anglo American Platinum is funding:

- Ga-Chaba – five tunnels to the value of R2 million
- Ga-Molekana – three hectare open land drip irrigation to the value of R million
- Mapela Irrigation Scheme – refurbishment of irrigation scheme and land preparation and land preparation to the value of R4, 3 million
- Sterkfontein Nguni Cattle – 13 bulls delivered to five villages, cattle kraal, handling facilities and perimeter fence to the value of R1, 9 million
- Groenfontein Farm – establishment of training facilities, construction of packhouse to the value of R22, 8 million
- Phafola Vegetable Farm – three hectare open land drip irrigation farm to the value of R2 million
- Rooibokfontein Poultry Farm – 1 000 layer hens, broiler unit of 500 broilers to the value of R1 million
- Twickenham Organic Farm – irrigation system and refurbishment of tunnels to the value of R3, 9 million
- Tumela Farm Support – feasibility study, Environmental Impact Assessment completed and busy with farm establishment to the value of R8, 2 million
- Kalkfontein Olive Farm – feasibility study, de-bushing and farm establishment to the value of R2, 5 million
- Ga-Mawela Vegetable Farm – fencing, irrigation and farm establishment to the value of R4, 5 million

#### **4. Agricultural Education**

**Honourable Speaker** and honourable members, the Department is not well aware of the critical demands of skills for the purpose of fundamental agrarian transformation.

We are strengthening our links with the **Association of South African Agricultural Educators (ASAAE)**, one of the leading organisations that promote agricultural education and skills acquisition in our country, with a view to lending support to this important stakeholder, particularly in improving its visibility.

ASAAE is at the coalface of imparting skills at all levels; therefore, it connects us with yet another core stakeholder, the recipients of skills, who are our learners.

I have started visits to agricultural schools to promote agriculture as a smart career choice among the learners. I have already engaged with Harry Oppenheimer and Kuschke Agricultural High Schools. I will continue my engagements in the coming financial year, with other schools that offer agriculture as a subject as part of our motivational exercises.

**Honourable Speaker** the **Freedom Charter** states: *“The doors of learning and Culture Shall be Opened.”* This academic year, we have re-opened our province’s two leading Colleges of Agriculture, Tompi Seleka and Madzivhandila, for full-time **3 (three)** year Diploma studies in Animal Production and Plant Production. **144** students have enrolled, **80** at Tompi Seleka and **64** at Madzivhandila.

The focus for 2015/16 will be on the continuation of the revamping and refurbishment of the Colleges’ learning and teaching facilities and additional hostel facilities for students amenities in order for the colleges to meet required standards for learning and teaching in line with the requirements as set out by the **Council for Higher Education (CHE)**.

Honourable Speaker, in our country, young men and women are at the heart of development in the agricultural sector. They are future farmers, policy-makers, leaders, researchers, and drivers of social and economic development. Without their active participation of this section of our society, food security will not be attained.

The Department will host a **Youth in Agriculture Summit** in June this year in our commitment to make agriculture fashionable, especially to our young people.

Equally, as in other developing countries, transformation in the agricultural sector in South Africa is moving at a snail's pace in terms of access to resources by Women and People with Disabilities.

It is in light of this that the Department will host **Women in Agriculture Summit** during August 2015 and a similar session for **People Living with Disability** in November 2015.

The overall objective of these summits is to create synergies and strengthen stakeholder involvement and partnerships with the department in order to advance the development and transformation agenda of government in this important sector.

## **5. Agricultural Economics**

Small, micro and medium enterprises and emerging farmers development

**Honourable Speaker**, on the other hand, one of our major challenges is to maintain the competitiveness of the agricultural sector by making it viable for all to play a meaningful role, thus redressing the economic exclusions of the past as I have already mentioned.

It is within this context that we have prioritised the development and transformation of emerging farmers from their survivalist levels into sustainable entrepreneurs.

This aim of the transition is to enable the farmers to contribute to local economic development and job creation. Farming is a business, just like any other economic activity.

Through our enterprise development support services, we provide business support services and facilitate value chain linkages and partnerships for smallholder farmers.

Among other measures, we are addressing the challenges faced by smallholder farmers in accessing commodity markets and agricultural finance through the exploration of partnerships with private agribusinesses and other development institutions.

Working in partnership with organizations such as Timbali Technology Incubator and TechnoServe, we have been able to assist vegetable farmers in Nwanedi in Musina and Ofcolaco in Tzaneen, respectively.

We are unlocking the value of vegetable farming, especially with regard to job creation and access to mainstream retail markets.

As highlighted by our **Honourable President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma**, in his 2015 State of Nation Address, the Department is supporting vegetables farmers in Nwanedi to expand their production and to ensure that they have access to formal markets.

Integral to the support system to the Nwanedi farmers is irrigation and marketing infrastructure development. To date, we have completed irrigation designs for **50** farmers while mainlines and infield irrigation infrastructure has been installed for the first 6 farmers.

**Honourable Speaker,**

Allow me to congratulate and recognise the **Nwanedi Communal Property Association (CPA)** members who are here with us in this august house, whose hard-work and determination is being acknowledged by the President in the State of the Nation Address last month.

We hope other CPAs will emulate the good example of the Nwanedi CPA.

In 2015/16 financial year, further support on infrastructure development for **50** hectares will be provided. The designs of Nwanedi vegetable pack house are at the final stage.

Given the mammoth task involved in these endeavours, we are calling for partnerships in the form of co-funding from other development and government institutions to ensure the success of the implementation of the Nwanedi development master plan.

In the same light, as part of part of the Limpopo agro-processing strategy implementation, agro-processing development coordinating forum is being established comprised of key stakeholders including **the Limpopo Economic Development Agency (LEDA), the Limpopo Department of Economic**

**Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), sector departments and other private sector players.**

## **6. Rural Development, Land Reform and Restitution.**

**“The People Shall Govern.”**

We are re-affirming the above clause in the Freedom Charter which sought to make a clear break with colonial and apartheid systems patterns of land ownership and control, both in the province and our country.

**Honourable Speaker**, the critical importance of land as a primary economic source is well documented in the annals of our history.

In many of our communities, land ownership is a symbol of its pride and dignity. Land ownership is the price of our integrity.

A series of land dispossessions were the hallmark of the advent of colonial conquest. For generations land has been at the heart of divisions and conflict in our country. Most bitter and fierce battles across the valleys and mountains of this province, along its rolling hills and its meandering rivers, were often about land.

Deprivation of land ownership brought about economic hardships for most indigenous people who found themselves in dire straits due to lack of access to this primary economic resource.

The critical significance of sustainable land reform programme needs to be stressed. We must not misinterpret the recent land reform proposals as a form of reverse dispossession.

As stated in the Freedom Charter, ***“restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided among those who work it to banish famine and land hunger.”***

Our key priority is promoting the equitable access to land and the utilisation of this primary economic resource to the maximum.

As **Tata Mandela** advised:

***“Our government is firmly committed to a process of land reform. The need for corrective measures to deal with the consequences of the past injustices is overwhelming. But it is equally important that new injustices are not created or production capacity disrupted”.***

Our policy acknowledges the property rights of existing land-owners. It also recognises the legitimate demand for justice from those who have been dispossessed or excluded. In addressing these matters, organised agriculture should seek to be part of the process of change, with the aim of sharing in the creation of a more just dispensation.”

In the 2014/2015 financial year, **13 000 hectares** were acquired and allocated to the previously disadvantaged farmers.

The amount of **R350 million** has been set aside for the purpose of land restitution in 2015/2016. It is worth noting though that these funds referred to above, are not part of the provincial budget appropriation but are within the national Rural Development and Land Reform’s allocation.

This **ANC** government has embarked on the reopening of the land claims for another five years to those who could not meet the 1998 deadline. We call upon all those who would want to use this period of lodging their claims to do so now and not wait for the tail-end of the process.

In the same breadth, we wish to congratulate all those who received their land back and are using it productively. To those who are still engaged in power squabbles on land management, time is running out. The province and the country need to sustain food production.

**Honourable Speaker**, the Department in collaboration with the national Department of Rural Development and Land Reform has established District Land Committees throughout the province, primarily to ensure there is synergy us, the district and local municipalities as well as the traditional leadership to ensure adequate and proper agricultural planning. This exercise gives more authority to the district and local municipality in terms of determination of land development and upgrades for agricultural purposes.

**Honourable Speaker**, in the context of Rural Development I believe I would have not done justice to this burning and contentious issue if the progress made on

measures to address the challenges of spatial decongestion, soil rehabilitation and veld improvement in our communal land, is not shared with the house.

In Mogalakwena Municipality, under Waterberg District, the Department has partnered with Anglo American Platinum Mine to develop the communal land in 15 villages. The rehabilitated land will be utilized for livestock breeding in support of the red meat cluster programme of the department

## **7. Animal Production**

### **Livestock improvement**

Honourable Speaker, in an effort to improve the quality of livestock in the province, especially of smallholder farmers the department in collaboration with IDC is engaged in a program to provide farmers with improved breeding cattle. In this financial year 2014/15 **193 Nguni cattle** were purchased and distributed to **6** projects. For the year 2015/16 we are planning to redistribute more than **200** breeding stock from farmers who will be repaying their loans. So far, the Nguni Project has benefited **804** beneficiaries from **72 projects**.

To promote compliance with food safety regulations the Department is piloting a village based dairy model in Moletjie in the Capricorn District. The pilot comprised of a milk processing unit and sales point. Cattle owners from various villages are allowed to milk their cattle and send their milk for processing and selling to the central processing unit. The first phase will be a combination of raw milk being bought from commercial suppliers for processing and selling together with supplies from village farmers. The second phase in later years would see the development of village milking parlours as per the feasibility study. The village milking parlour project would benefit an additional **145** livestock farmers. The building for milk processing and sales point has been completed. In the year 2015/16 plans include the equipping and operationalization of the processing and sales outlet to benefit **69** farmers.

### **Aquaculture**

**Honourable Speaker**, aquaculture is part of our white meat cluster development. Fish and chicken are rated amongst the most affordable sources of protein, especially for our rural masses.

During the 2014/15 financial year, LDA had provided **15 000** fish breeding stock to fish farmers in Vhembe district as part of input support program to increase production. The year 2015/16, LDA will distribute **20 000** fish breeding stock to fish farmers throughout the province. This is in response to requests for support from fish farmers for a start-up of new ventures.

In the same breadth, **Operation Phakisa** is gathering momentum and not only confined to our high seas and oceans.

This unprecedented and laudable Presidential campaign to further unlock the potential of our domestic economy with a view to arresting the scourges of poverty, crime and unemployment involves setting clear targets and following up with a comprehensive monitoring process that culminates in making the results of the interventions public.

In the realm of aquaculture, Operation Phakisa aims to enhance the growth of the sector through the increment of the value contributions of all segments comprising the aquaculture value chain while simultaneously creating jobs in the fish processing and marketing sectors.

In the 2015/16 financial year, the LDA has allocated **R5 million** for the rehabilitation and expansion of the Turfloop Fish Hatchery to improve its capacity to produce more fingerlings for our farmers. This fish will be distributed to potential emerging and small-scale fish farmers throughout the province in order to increase production.

We have also budgeted **R5 million** to assist the fish farmers to comply with Food Safety and Health Regulations, and for the construction of fish processing facility at the Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture.

The criteria of qualifying for assistance include farmers for registering either as co-operatives or a close corporation.

### **Veterinary Services**

Livestock and wildlife plays a major part in the economy of the province. Therefore, vaccination programmes are of utmost importance in preserving the sound health of these resources.

Through our veterinary services, we regularly provide vaccination to prevent both communicable and non-communicable diseases in animals, especially our cattle stock.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to reiterate that our Province has now met all the stringent conditions set by the OIE (the World Organisation for Animal Health) and has thus qualified for the reinstatement of its status as a place where Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination is practiced.

Indeed, this is one of the good stories to be shared with the people of the Province. I have since directed the Department to safeguard the FMD free zone status by strengthening its collaboration with other spheres of our government and relevant stakeholders to ensure that we retain and sustain this vantage position. It must be noted that the major part of the FMD control area is in our province. It is this place that shields the whole country from the disease.

I take this opportunity to thank all the stakeholders and participants who played a role during the rigorous inspection process that eventually led to the reinstatement of our FMD free zone status.

## **8. Disaster Management**

The Waterberg District was declared a flood disaster area in 2014. Farmers suffered crop and livestock losses, damage to farm roads, irrigation dams and other infrastructure. A total of **R22 million** has been allocated in the 2015/16 financial year to assist the affected farmers in Waterberg. Included in the allocation is the final phase of flood relief scheme for farmers in the Mopani Districts for repair of damaged infrastructure.

It is still expected that these adverse conditions will prevail and we therefore plan to intensify disaster risk reduction through proactive programmes including early warning systems.

### **Invader Fruit Fly**

In the previous budget, the occurrence of invader fruit fly (*Bactrocera invadens*) was mentioned. This is a major pest plaguing horticulture crops.

In the past period, our focus has been to promote awareness among farmers and the provision of technical advice on management of the pest. We are

continuing with these efforts in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and other agencies to combat fruit fly.

## **9. National Resource Management**

In the 2014/15 financial year, the Land Care Programme was allocated **R10 178 million** to address natural resource degradation challenge.

The Department was able to fence off the area of **134 kilometres** to improve the grazing conditions of the lands. We constructed **32 kilometres** of fire belts to stop veld fires while 38 gabion structures were constructed for soil conservation.

Through a raft of conservation measures, approximately **3 000 hectares** were cleared of alien and invasive plants while **15 236 hectares** were rehabilitated for farming purposes.

Through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) Incentive Grant allocation of **R15 million** managed to create **3 318 work opportunities** including the implementation of other infrastructural work such as fencing construction at the yellow line for control of FMD and improving grazing conditions.

We have hosted a hugely successful provincial event at Ga Makgopa Village in Greater Tubatse Municipality to mark 2015 as the **International Year of Soils**.

### **JOB CREATION**

As outlined in the NDP, the agricultural sector is expected to create **1 million** permanent jobs by 2030.

In line with the prognosis, our EPWP initiatives have been allocated **R5 million**, to promote the creation of temporary work opportunities and training which will culminate either into a formal employment or and self-employment. Our intervention in the production and business side of agricultural enterprises that we are supporting are also expected to contribute towards job creation and retention in some instances. We aim to create an estimated **5 000** work opportunities within the budget allocation for different programs and projects in 2015/2016.

### **Research Services**

**Honourable Speaker**, the need to continuously improve the development of the agricultural sector demands that our Research Services be in sync with latest international breakthroughs. It is for that reason that the Department is going to spend **R1, 5 million** to maintain infrastructure in both Mara and Towoomba Research Stations.

## **10. Human Resources Development and People Management**

**Honourable Speaker**, the department had capacity challenges in critical service delivery components and in other support components.

To address this, we managed to fill **73 posts** in this financial year. Furthermore, the appointment of **7 (seven)** Veterinary Medicine (classified as a scarce skill) graduates is being finalised. **6 (six)** students for Agricultural Engineering and **13** for Veterinary Medicine are at the University of Zimbabwe and University of Nairobi respectively, through the LDA bursary scheme.

We have also provided training and learning opportunities for **106** interns as part of our contribution to National Skills Development Programme.

For 2015/16, we will take **85** interns based on our available resources.

Through our training and development programmes and partnerships with Agriculture Sector Education Training Authority (Agri-Seta), a total of **R1, 4m** was allocated for 2014/15 and **R1m** for 2015/16 respectively. This is important to ensure continued capacity building, in the sector especially farmers

### **Achievements and Accolades**

We are continuing to live the values of Batho Pele Principles. This has been demonstrated by the following bouquet of plaudits with the proud tradition of scooping awards in the 2014/15 period. Here are the bouquets of plaudits we have been showered with in honour of our brilliant work:

- **The Premier's Service Excellence Silver Awards for 2013/14 for indigenous knowledge innovation**

- **At the Provincial EPWP Kamoso Awards aimed at reward excellence in the implementation of EPWP, the LDA won the best overall department in the Environment and Culture Sector of EPWP**
- **2nd prize-Gold Award in the Best Innovative Team of the Year category on the Nguni Assisted Reproductive Technology;**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> prize-Silver Award in the Best Service Delivery of the Year category for the Team Mapping of Agriculture Commodity Production.**
- **The National Batho Pele Excellence Awards 2014**  
**The Enterprise Development team of the LDA's Moletele Project won the third place Bronze in the category Best Implemented project/programme of the year**

**Honourable Speaker**, allow me to congratulate Ms Dina Denga from Vhembe District, our best female farmer for 2014. Ms Denga is one of the six finalists who represented Limpopo in the National Female Entrepreneur of the Year Awards held in Mafikeng, North West Province.

It is our firm belief that through the good example provided by Ms Denga and other shiny female entrepreneurs our province will come on top in this year's competition to be held in KwaZulu-Natal in August. We salute all the female entrepreneurs in the province who have kept the programme alive since its inception in 1999.

We also salute Mr Julius Maela from the Waterberg District who scooped the 2014 Young Farmer of the Year Award.

We will continue to provide an After-Care Programme to all our participants, to ensure that they do not enter the competition and it ends there. We must give them full support to enable them to sustain their farming businesses.

**Honourable Speaker,**

The budget for the department is **R1, 697 billion** for the fiscal year, 2015/2016. The bulk of the budget is Equitable Share at **R1, 370 billion** as compared to **R327 million** of conditional grants for the same period.

**Programme 1 - Administration:** The purpose of the programme is to manage and formulate policy directives and priorities and to ensure there is appropriate support service to all other programmes with regard to finance, personnel, information, communication and procurement. The budget for this programme has increased from **R300 million** in 2014/15 financial year to **R322 million** in 2015/16 financial year.

**Programme 2 - Sustainable Resource Management:** The purpose of the Programme is to provide agricultural support service to farmers in order to ensure that there is sustainable management of agricultural resources. The program provides agricultural engineering services, natural resource management, land use management services, disaster risk management and spatial information services. The budget for this programme decreased from **R96 million** in 2014/15 to **R93 million** in 2015/16 due to a decrease in both EPWP incentive and Land Care Conditional Grants.

**Programme 3 - Farmer Support and Development:** The purpose of the programme is to provide farmer settlement and post settlement support to land and agrarian reform projects. In order to ensure project sustainability and competitiveness of farmers, the technical agricultural production advisory and extension services are provided through a commodity based approach. The budget for this programme has increased from **R984 million** in 2014/15 to **R1, 049 billion** in 2015/16. The increase is as a result of increased conditional grants

(Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme and Letsema) to enable the Department to carry out infrastructural farmer support programmes and to assist farmers with production inputs, training and capacity building of farmers, including upgrading of colleges infrastructure. The allocation also includes the Extension Recovery Programme.

**Programme 4 - Veterinary Services:** The purpose of this programme is to render Veterinary Services throughout the Province by awareness, compliance and law enforcement in accordance with applicable legislation. This includes animal disease control, veterinary public health (promotion of meat safety), certification of animals and animal products for export as well as providing a laboratory diagnostic service which detects disease-causing agents in submitted samples. The budget for this programme has decreased slightly from **R47.3 million** in 2014/15 to **R47.2 million** in 2015/16.

**Programme 5 - Research and Technology Development Services:** The purpose of this programme is to render agricultural research services and development of information systems with regard to agricultural and natural resource utilization technologies. Crop and Animal research and trials are conducted within the Limpopo agro-ecological environment. The budget in this programme has increased from **R 50 million** in 2014/15 to **R58 million** in 2015/16. This budget will also be utilised for maintenance of infrastructure requirements for the two research stations in the Department.

**Programme 6 - Agricultural Economics Services:** The purpose of the programme is to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the sector in support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth. The budget in this programme increased from **R 23 million** in 2014/15 to **R25 million** in 2015/16.

**Programme 7 - Structured Agricultural Education and Training:** The purpose of the programme is to strengthen training and research capacity of agricultural colleges, provide training programmes in appropriate fields to prospective and practising farmers, extension officials and advisors, develop and present suitable needs driven training programs and ensure accessibility of training programs to potential farmers. This programme caters for two agricultural colleges, namely Madzivhandila in Vhembe District Municipality and Tompi Seleka in Sekhukhune District Municipality. The budget for this programme has increased from **R 96 million** in 2014/15 to **R97 million** in 2015/16.

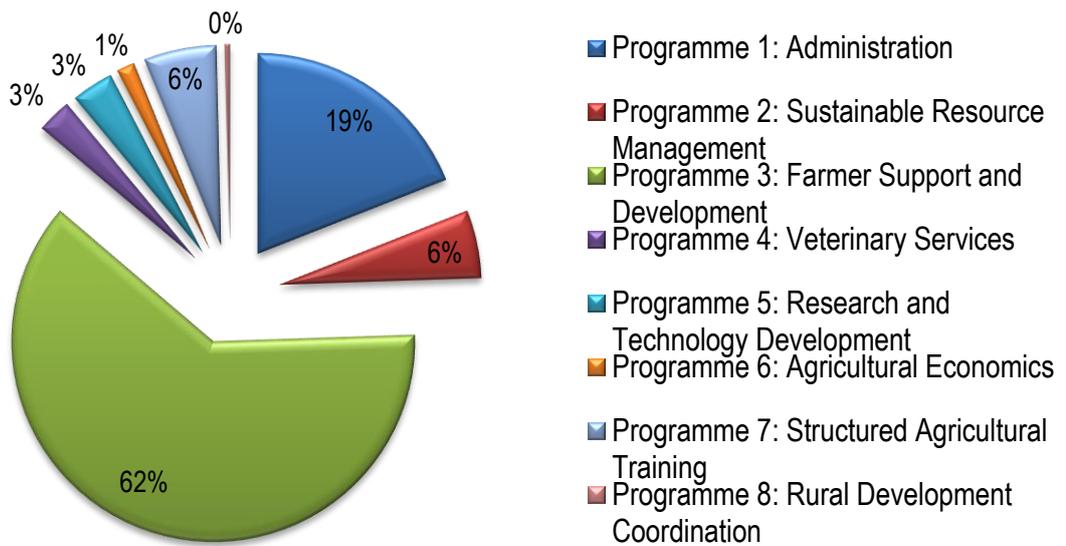
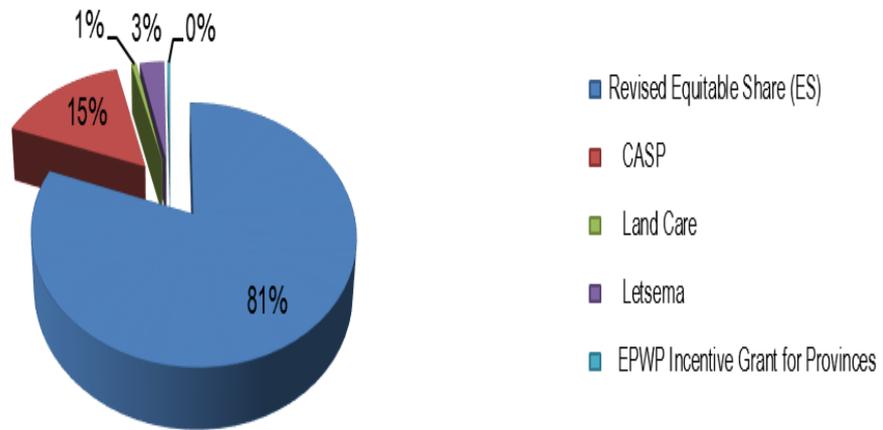
**Programme 8 - Rural Development Coordination:** The purpose of the programme is to facilitate and coordinate planning and implementation of integrated rural development program in line with the Limpopo Rural Development Strategy. The program will work with all key stakeholders in order to ensure that government and its social partners deliver sustainable and efficient rural development services to rural communities in the Province. The budget in this programme had decreased from **R 8 million** in 2014/15 to **R6 million** in 2015/16. This is due to the once-off allocation that was for the development of the provincial Rural Development Strategy. This programme will continue facilitating the implementation of the rural development strategy, and

co-ordinating development programmes in the CRDP sites by the sector departments and non-governmental initiatives.

**Final Budget Allocation for financial year 2015/2016**

<b>BUDGET STRUCTURE PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>AMOUNT R'000</b>
<b>Programme 1: Administration</b>	<b>322 259</b>
<b>Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management</b>	<b>93 086</b>
<b>Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development</b>	<b>1 048 894</b>
<b>Programme 4: Veterinary Services</b>	<b>47 214</b>
<b>Programme 5: Research and Technological Development</b>	<b>57 580</b>
<b>Programme 6: Agricultural Economics</b>	<b>24 642</b>
<b>Programme 7: Structured Agricultural and Training</b>	<b>97 314</b>
<b>Programme 8: Rural Development Coordination</b>	<b>6 142</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 697 131</b>

### 2015/16 Budget Summary



## **CONCLUSION:**

As **President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma** said in his 2009 State of the Nation Address:

***“We are now called upon to implement our manifesto. The dreams and hopes of all the people of our country must be fulfilled. There is no place for complacency, no place for cynism, no place for excuses”.***

This **ANC** department is on course to push the frontiers of poverty backwards and move South Africa forward. None but ourselves are the masters of our own fate. It is us who, through collective action will determine our destiny.

**Working together to push the triple frontiers of unemployment, inequality and poverty backward, we move SA forward.**

**Working together in agriculture to combat the twin menaces of food insecurity and chronic hunger backward, we move SA forward.**

In conclusion **Honourable Speaker**, allow me to thank the following:

- The African National Congress;
- The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture for their sterling oversight work;
- The Head of Department and the Staff of the Department for their tireless commitment and dedication to their work
- The Provincial Office of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform;
- Traditional Leaders and all other stakeholders in Agriculture and Rural Development
- The people of Limpopo for the support they give to the Department.

***“Agriculture for an honourable and high-minded man is the best of all occupations or arts by which men procure the means of living” - ancient Greek historian***

Thank You

Baie dankie

Ke a leboga

Inkomu

Ndo livhuwa

## INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL DAYS OF OBSERVANCE

World Wetlands Day	February 02
International Women's Day	March 08
Human Rights Day	March 21
International Day of Forest	March 21
World Water Day	March 22
Child Labour Day	April 04
International Mother Earth Day	April 22
World Veterinary Day	April 26
Freedom Day	April 27
Workers Day	May 01
Africa Day	May 25
Youth Day	June 16
World Refugee Day	June 20
World Population Day	July 11
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	July 17
Nelson Mandela International Day	July 18
Women's Day	August 09
Africa Traditional Medicine Day	August 31
Arbor Week	Sept 01-07
Heritage Day	Sep 24
Veterinary World Rabies Day	Sep 28
World Farm Animal Day	Oct 02
World Animal Day	Oct 04
International Day of Rural Women	Oct 15
World Food Day	Oct 16
International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Oct 17
Africa Industrialisation Day	Nov 20
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children	Nov 25
World AIDS Day	Dec 01
International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	Dec 02
International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Dec 03
International Soil Day	Dec 05
International Human Rights Day	Dec 10
Day of Reconciliation	Dec 16
Christmas Day	Dec 25
Day of Goodwill	Dec 26



