



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SPEECH DELIVERD BY THE MEC RESPONSIBLE  
FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT, Ms NANDI NDALANE ON THE  
OCCASION OF GRADUATION CEREMONY AT  
MADZIVHANDILA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
ON THE 10 OCTOBER AT MADZIVHANDILA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**

Programme Director

The Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality,  
Cllr Nenguda Dowelani

Vho thovhele; Gole Mmphaphuli

The Local Mayor Thulamela Local Municipality, Cllr  
Mushoni Tshivhango

The Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimele Maisela

The Principal of Madzivhandila College of Agriculture, Ms Tshisikule M C

Representative from DAFF

Representative from Agri-SETA

Representative from TUT and University of Venda

Executive and Senior Management of the Department

Fellow Graduates and proud parents

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

**A very good morning to you**

all It is with great sense of pride to be addressing you on this very important happy day in the lives of our graduates and our Department. I'm immensely proud

to see young men and women who have accomplished their studies in this college of Agriculture. In front of us today, are young minds in whose knowledge our country and province shall obtain the noble objective of sustaining food security. Join us as we applaud with huge gratification the accomplishment of these graduates. Fellow graduates, parents and distinguished guests our country is at cross roads as far as the economy and job creation is concerned. It is an undeniable fact that our economy is going through a difficult period. As much as we sighed with relief when the results of the last quarter showed impressive growth, the reality is that we are going through a difficult time. Statistics daily show a very bleak picture about the high levels of unemployment affecting our young people and in many instances our graduates. As leaders, on daily basis the high levels of unemployment affecting our young people worries us quite greatly. As government

we are working around the clock to come up with measures to improve our economy, put convenient environment for our businesses to thrive and to also introduce empowerment programmes to help our young people.

## Programme Director

Some of you may ask themselves why am I raising these matters during our graduation ceremony when I was supposed to be expressing joy and happiness. My response to that question is, we would like to confront this environment which these graduates are going to meet in the economic environment. We are expressing this view in order to prepare our graduates as they will be facing the economic world from today. I'm calling on these graduates to consider approaching the employment world differently. Our economy needs more job creators than job seekers.

The skill you have acquired throughout your stay at this college has prepared you to face the job world with great sense of confidence. As a Department we will support you in your efforts to use your knowledge to develop yourselves as job creators. Over the years Agriculture has proven to still have abundance of economic opportunities. I therefore implore on you to consider using your knowledge to start or work on projects which will not only produce food but importantly provide jobs for yourselves and our fellow unemployed masses of our people. I concede that you will need a lot of experience and resources. In this province we have a great partnership with established farmers with huge experience and resources in whose help you can be able to grow and sustain yourselves. I will engage our Departmental officials to ensure that we strengthen the partnership we have with the established farmers in order for you to be able to get necessary upliftment. The

Department is ready at all material times to help you in your efforts to participate in Agriculture. All of you who have accomplished have no excuse but to succeed in this important sector of Agriculture.

Programme Director

As this crop of graduates is today unleashed on to the agricultural sector, we can't help but note that the re-opening of state agricultural colleges as resolved in the ruling party's 2012 Mangaung Conference was indeed a great decision for government. At this moment wherein Land Reform is at the center of public discourse, and the wind of change is sweeping across the horizon in the agricultural sector, it is imperative that people of a majority rural province like Limpopo especially the youth get involved in agriculture and food production. The graduation of these young men and women also augers well with

correcting the status quo of an ageing and racially skewed farming population. They do not enter the agricultural sector as unskilled labour but as Diploma graduants with a huge potential of entrepreneurial development.

As the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development our mission is to facilitate for a united, prosperous and sustainable agricultural sector in the province. This mission remains elusive when women, the youth and people with disabilities especially of the African Majority remain on the outskirts of land ownership and lack the required skills that could enable them to make meaningful contributions to the sector. As the mother department of this College, we fully recognize and support the training that takes place here. It is envisaged that through this college, skills transfer at both Diploma and skills programme will place the target groups right in a position where

there are able to claim their stake in the agriculture and food industries.

## Programme Director

Since the re-opening of this college in 2015, the first crop of graduates was released in 2018 and the graduation was held in conjunction with the sister college of Tompi Seleka . In that graduation, 14 Diplomas were awarded to young men and women. As we speak today the majority of those graduates are placed on farms and are doing an excellent job of food production, continuing with their advance diploma and other already join the world of workers in the sector. The expectation is that they in future shall take the opening opportunities to become food producers themselves and not end up as workers but employers. We have vested interest in their success because with their success as farmers, we will be able to reduce unemployment, reduce poverty and

improve the provincial and national food security. We have today again witnessed the awarding of 31 Diplomas in both animal production and crop production, this will add to the skills base which is necessary for the prosperity of the transforming agricultural sector.

Programme Director

We state without fear of contradiction that as they leave this college today, these young men and women are skilled and capacitated for the applications for which they have been trained. They come ready to hit the ground running and that is something we all are proud of. To the academic and support staff who trained these graduants, we say to you this is just the beginning, the bigger journey lies ahead. You are required at all times to meet the agricultural industry's skills requirements in the delivery of your programs. This is especially so when

it comes to integrating the ITC technology in agriculture which is the unavoidable future of agriculture as we get deeper into the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. As does the farming skills themselves, your presence and constant improvement of the training you offer is also having a huge role to play in the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector.

Programme director

To the funders DAFF and Agri-SETA, Letaba Municipality who have together with our Department funded the academically deserving students through full bursaries since re-opening of the college, we say your efforts do not go unnoticed. We encourage that as the college enrolment increases, keep working with us so as to deliver a dream of education for the African child.

As we conclude chairperson, it is important that we let the graduates know that with knowledge comes responsibility. The intention for our struggle for education was so that those among us who acquire it, will become vehicles through which our development and ultimate prosperity shall be delivered. The task remains the same for you wherever you are going. Be it in your own business, community, and village, family you are now assuming the responsibility of being a vehicle for development. You should not only be known to have this responsibility but should also be seen to be living this responsibility so that the young after you are inspired.

Programme Director

The class of 2018, was the powerhouse of innovation and creativity. Be prepared to push the boundaries' to make the world a better place even in small ways.

Always remember where you are coming from and where you are going, congratulations graduates

I thank you