



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR BUDGET VOTE**

**SPEECH**

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT – VOTE 4**

**DELIVERED BY THE MEMBER OF THE**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, Ms NANDI NDALANE**

**TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE**

**DATE: 13 APRIL 2021**

Honourable Speaker,

Honourable Premier,

Honourable Deputy Speaker,

Honourable Colleagues in the Executive Council,

Chief Whip of the Majority Party,

Honourable members of the Provincial Legislature,

Leadership of the Ruling Party and other Political Parties

present here today,

Leadership of the Opposition Party

Chairperson of the Agriculture and Rural Development

Portfolio Committee,

Members of the media,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to you all.

It is my singular honour to be addressing you today in this august house where the hopes and aspirations of a better life by our people humbly reside. A public representative by election ours is to represent our people and not a day is it ever about ourselves, our ambitions, our greed or our personal accumulation. For as long as majority of our people continue to be tormented by the harsh realities of unemployment, poverty and underdevelopment, we shall spare no effort but to work hard to improve the unbearable conditions in which our people languish in.

### **Madam Speaker**

The year 2021 is deservedly named the year of Charlotte Maxeke. The timing of this decision could not have been more appropriate given the current conditions in our country and the world. Countries of the world and our Province Limpopo are reeling from the scourge of the raging Covid-19 pandemic.

As we travel through this journey, we draw strength from the undying spirit of Mama Charlotte Maxeke. We remain convinced that through her spirit and the resilience of our people we shall overcome. Addressing the National Council of African Women in 1938 in Bloemfontein Charlotte Maxeke said: “The work is not for oneself. Kill the spirit of self and do not live above your people, but with them. If you rise above them, take somebody with you. These immortal words of the “Mother of Black Freedom in South Africa” should serve as a guiding torch for us as we fight this pandemic and importantly as we strive to obtain a better life for the great masses of our people.

### **Madam Speaker**

According to Stats SA the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released on 8 December 2020, the economy of South Africa rebounded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

The growth was mainly due to the easing of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions as more and more industries opened. The agricultural sector inched by nearly 20% from a growth of 15.1% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020. The growth could be attributed to an increase in the production of field, horticultural crops and animal products. The maize consumption is at 10.8 million tons and a total of nearly 5 million tons of maize surplus could further re-ignite the curve in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.

### **Madam Speaker**

Although the agricultural sector has shown some resilience, there is a need to strengthen the support to the sector, and importantly a change in our service delivery approaches and methods, as we implement socio-economic recovery programmes that aim to contribute to the economic recovery and reconstruction drive.

I would like to echo the words of the Premier of Limpopo, Hon Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, in his State of the Province Address, when he said, and I quote” We are repositioning the agricultural sector to take a leading position in our economic recovery for growth and development”. Closed quote. We are confident that our recently finalised Plan for the Revitalisation of Agriculture and Agro-processing Value Chain (RAAVC) is well positioned to create such an enabling environment. The RAAVC Plan articulates the development plans and catalytic projects through which the sector hopes to contribute towards the economic recovery interventions. We will continue to work jointly with the industry partners to draw the requisite expertise and knowledge as well as partnerships on financing and market linkages. Our reviewed farmer support policy will guide the processes and modalities towards such partnerships. The multi-year implementation of some of the identified catalytic projects will commence this financial year. The projects are in the fruit and potato industry commodities.

We are grateful to the Member of Executive Council responsible for Treasury, Honourable Seaparo Sekoati, for the funds that have been allocated and ringfenced to enable us to kickstart the RAAVC Plan implementation.

The budget allocated to Vote 4: Agriculture and Rural Development for 2021/22 is one billion five hundred and forty-seven thousand, seven hundred and eighty rand (R1 547 780.00). The budget is made up of one billion two hundred and twenty thousand, five hundred and thirty-one rand (R1,220,531) of the Equitable Share allocation and Conditional Grants amounting to three hundred and twenty-seven million, two hundred and forty-nine thousand rand (R327,249,000). Within the Conditional Grants the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASPP) has been allocated an amount of two hundred and thirty three million five hundred and eleven thousand rand (R233,511, million), Letsema has been allocated seventy three million seven hundred and nine thousand rand

(R73,709 million), LandCare is allocated thirteen million and sixteen thousand rand (R13,016 million) and the Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) EPWP is allocated seven million and thirteen thousand rand (R7,013 million).

**Madam Speaker**

The overall Departmental budget has decreased by Four hundred and eighty-three million, five hundred and thirty-one thousand rand (R483,531 million) or 23.8% year on year. As the Budget Programme Structure (BPS) does not make provision for a standalone programme on Rural Development, the budget relating to Rural Development are reflected in Programme 3: Agricultural Producer Support and Development.

**Madam Speaker** allow me to elaborate on the budget allocation to the seven programmes of the Department.



**Programme 1: Administration** has been allocated two hundred and sixty-six million five hundred and forty-seven thousand rand (R266,547 million) to cater for administrative costs as well as contractual obligations including R8 million for Audit Fees. The Covid- 19 pandemic has prompted a rethink on our part about the efficient and effective management of our human resources. As our Premier, the Honourable Stanley Chupu Mathabatha, rightly pointed out in his State of the Province Address (SOPA) 2021/ 20:22 and I quote. ***“Covid -19 presented a crisis unequalled in recent history and memory.*** This is the moment when it is sufficiently demonstrated that the people are a precious resource.” Close quote. It is the people who are the driving force of every institution and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (LDARD) is not an exception to this observation.

## **Madam Speaker**

During 2020/21 a foundation was laid on the implementation of Health and Safety Protocols for the management of COVID 19. Employees were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and this will continue based on the prevailing requirements on the management of COVID 19.

## **Madam Speaker**

### **Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Use and**

**Management** has been allocated seventy-five million and sixty-six thousand rand (R75,066 million) to provide agricultural support services for farmers to ensure that there is sustainable management of agricultural resources. This budget includes budget for Landcare and Extended Public Works Programme (EPWP) conditional grants. The Department hosted a Revitalization of Small-Scale Irrigation Schemes (RESIS) Indaba in September 2019.

The main purpose of the Indaba was to explore possible solutions to the challenges confronting most of the irrigation schemes, such as internal disputes and operating models. A total of 345 hectares (ha) of cotton have been planted at the schemes in Ephraim Mogale Municipality, Zamerkomste 158 has, Dichweung 100 has, Tsimanyane 40 has and Readira baswa 50 has. Approximately 522 tons of cotton was harvested, with about 300 seasonal jobs created. The de-bushing of more than 100 hectares has been completed at Mogalatjane scheme. Consultations on the operating model have been concluded. Planting of cotton is to start during the 2021/22 planting season. At Tswelopele scheme in Fetakgomo Tubatse Municipality, consultations have been concluded on the development of 205 hectares, divided into 5 clusters of 41 hectares each. Designs for irrigation systems for 41 hectares have been approved.

Designs for the remaining hectares would be finalised in the first quarter of 2021/22 financial year, with the infrastructure implementation being a multiyear project. The budget allocated enables the Engineering Services Directorate to plan, design and provide construction supervision for the development and implementation of infrastructure. The focus will be on the establishment of thirty-six (36) agricultural infrastructure. As environmentally controlled structures can reduce the impact of adverse climatic conditions and improve the level of production through promoting the use of technology, a total of ten (10) efficient water use systems will be developed and twelve (12) environmentally controlled production structures constructed. To promote the adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies, one thousand two hundred (1 200) hectares will be rehabilitated, four hundred (400) hectares cultivated under Conservation Agriculture practises and one thousand five hundred (1 500) hectares cleared of alien invasive plants.

A target of two thousand five hundred (2500) green jobs shall be created through upstream and downstream agricultural activities through agro-processing, irrigation expansion and EPWP.

### **Madam Speaker**

Due to climate change, natural disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity requiring continued assistance to farmers. Farmers to the total of a thousand will be assisted through disaster relief schemes and four surveys on the uptake of early warning information.

**Programme 3: Agricultural Producer Support and Development** has been allocated Nine hundred and fifty-six million one hundred and forty-two thousand rand (R956,142 million), which constitutes 61.8% of the budget of the Department. This allocation includes the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASAP) and Letsema conditional grants.

## **Madam Speaker**

Within the farmer support programmes the planned producer support is aimed at benefiting nine hundred and twenty-eight smallholder producers and two thousand and seventy-two subsistence producers across different commodities. The commodities include vegetables, fruit, potatoes, cotton, grain, white and red meat clusters. To broaden the access of farmers to production support, the establishment of Farmer Production Support Units (FPSU) has commenced, being the first phase of an Agri-Park. The Vleishboom FPSU in Makhuduthamaga Municipality is complete. Preparations for operationalization are underway, which include electricity connections by ESKOM. Completion of the construction of Masalal FPSU in Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality is scheduled for the first quarter of April 2021. Witpoort and Tshiombo FPSUs are in planning phase with implementation planned for 2021/22 financial year.

Regarding skills development and capacity building of farmers, the focus will be on the increase of the skills base in the agricultural sector. In collaboration with Agricultural Sector Education Training Authority (AgriSETA) and all relevant Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs), Universities, Colleges of Agriculture and Accredited Training Institutions, the Department will offer a comprehensive capacity building programme to a thousand farmers and or producers. Eight smallholder farmers/ producers will be assisted with Mentorship Programmes as part of the Producers Commercialization Programme to accelerate economic transformation and job creation in the sector.

### **Madam Speaker**

The Youth in Agriculture Programme is also a priority which will be broken down to fund various programmes aimed at empowering and developing youth who are participating in agriculture.

The Department will place hundred and twenty unemployed agriculture graduates in agricultural enterprises for practical skills development as a way of attracting youth into the sector and increasing the participation of youth in the integrated agricultural value chain. The first cohort has completed the programme in 2020/21 financial year. While some have opted to look for employment, others have opted to pursue various agricultural production activities, and they are being assisted to start up through the exit strategy which the department has developed. The support varies according to the type of agricultural enterprise activity they are pursuing.

Food security interventions remain paramount in our efforts to improve food access through own production, particularly at household level. The households are provided with production inputs to enable them to produce various commodities for food sustenance, and the surplus is sold within their localities to generate income. The production inputs include seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, production stock



for poultry and livestock feed. Five thousand households will benefit from this support.

**Programme 4: Veterinary Services** has been allocated fifty-two million nine hundred and ninety-two thousand rand (R52,992 million) to render veterinary services. The sporadic outbreaks of Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) continue to give us sleepless nights. Of concern is the latest trend of outbreaks in the free zones. This calls for increased concerted efforts from relevant government departments and entities, in terms of the maintenance of the Kruger National Park fences, improved management of border fences with our neighbouring countries and timeous availability of vaccines. We continue to engage our Provincial Treasury on requisite funding that will enable us to implement the planned intervention measures that are of provincial responsibility. For 2021/22 financial year, with the budget allocated, we have planned to conduct hundred and forty-eight FMD vaccination sessions.

Furthermore, as part of overall animal disease control, four thousand five hundred dipping sessions would be conducted for communal cattle.

To reduce the level of risks associated with meat handling for public consumption, four hundred and eighty inspections would be conducted at facilities that are producing meat and meat products. These facilities include abattoirs and meat processors.

### **Programme 5: Research and Technology Development**

**Services** has been allocated forty-five million two hundred and forty-three thousand rand (R45,243 million) to render agricultural research services and development of information systems about agricultural and natural resource utilization technologies. Targeted clients and stakeholders are empowered with the research results and findings of the implemented research projects, being communicated through various platforms.

**Programme 6: Agricultural Economic Services** has been allocated thirty-four million and thirty-two thousand rand (R34,032 million) to provide timely and relevant agricultural economic services to the agricultural sector in support of sustainable agricultural and agri-business development to increase economic growth. The construction of Matsika packhouse is complete and the infrastructure support entails a packhouse structure, banana pack line, cold storage, office, and ablution facilities. This facility will provide packaging and value adding service to Matsika and Tshikonelo banana farmers after the commissioning which is planned for the first quarter of 2021/22 financial year. The Nwanedi and Masalal packhouses are operational and are GlobalGap certified.

## **Madam Speaker**

Within the budget of Programme 6 is the budget allocated to the projects within the RAAVAC Plan. RAAVC projects include Zebediela Citrus Estate which has been allocated five million Rand (R5 million) in line with a comprehensive business plan which has been developed. The key scope of development includes refurbishment of irrigation and electrical infrastructure, replanting of trees and re-establishment of a packhouse. Engagements are in progress at the Communal Property Association (CPA) level on the development model. Considering the amount of investment required, the project was submitted for funding consideration under the Presidency Infrastructure Coordination Programme. The development model for Makgoba Tea Estate Revitalisation has been finalized. The development plan is being engaged with stakeholders and discussions are at an advanced stage. Makgoba Estate has been allocated ten million rand (R10 million).

An amount of one point eight million rand (R1.8 million) has been set aside for the Norjax Tomato Paste Factory project for the acquisition of the land on which the development is taking place. The Ga- Moleele potato-belt project in the Blouberg Municipality is funded to the tune of R5,5 million. The project scope includes the development of ten hectares irrigation system for potato production. Appropriate infrastructure is at the centre of smallholder farmer development in this industry, to increase volumes and quality of produce.

### **Programme 7: Agricultural Education and Training**

receives an allocation of one hundred and seventeen million seven hundred and fifty-eight thousand rand (R117,758 million) to cater for the two Colleges of Agriculture in the Province. Key programmes include student academic programme, College infrastructure revitalisation and skills development programmes. A total of hundred and ten new students have enrolled for 2021 academic year.

It is anticipated that eighty students will graduate with an agricultural qualification in the fourth quarter of 2021/22. A total of two hundred and fifty participants will be trained in skills development programmes in the sector.

Infrastructure revitalisation will include the completion of water supply and lecture hall at Madzivhandila College, renovation and upgrading of 6-storey hostel and installation of CCTV cameras as well as upgrade of main gate entrance access control structure at Tompi Seleka College.

## LDARD 2020/21 BUDGET ALLOCATION SPEECH

<b>R thousand</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>% Spend</b>
1. Administration	266,547	17.2%
2. Sustainable Resource Use and Management	75,066	4.8%
3. Agriculture Producer Support and Development	956,142	61.8%
4. Veterinary Services	52,992	3.4%
5. Research and Technology Development Services	45,243	2.9%
6. Agricultural Economics Services	34,032	2.2%
7. Agricultural Education and Training	117,758	7.6%
<b>Total payments and estimates</b>	<b>1,547,780</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>R thousand</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	
<b>Equitable Share</b>	<b>1,220,531</b>	
<b>Conditional Grant</b>	<b>327,249</b>	
Land Care	13,016	
EPWP	7,013	
CASP	233,511	
Letsema	73,709	
<b>Total payments and estimates</b>	<b>1,547,780</b>	

### **Madam Speaker**

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to my colleagues in the executive led by our Premier, Honourable Stanley Chupu Mathabatha for their support and collaboration as we worked together to weather the storm brought by Covid-19 pandemic. It is through working together that we can confidently say we have weathered the storm and continue to cruise through this difficult period.

Working together indeed we can achieve more. I would also like to salute our frontline workers who displayed their selflessness by putting their lives on the line by working during the harsh storm of the pandemic. Many of you will recall that during the hard lockdown when many of us were quarantining at home as per government instruction, our frontline workers were recalled to the office in order to process Covid-19 relief fund applications to help our ailing farmers. These men and women went beyond the call of duty putting their lives at risk in the service of our people. Today through their sacrifices, many of our farmers benefited from the Covid-19 relief fund which brought some ease and comfort to Agriculture production in our province. At no stage was food security ever threatened in Limpopo even during the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. Special appreciation to the Head of the Department, Ms Ramatsimele Maisela for her leadership, dedication and hard work.



I know that when we were hit by the pandemic, we all entered a foreign terrain, however, you displayed a great sense of urgency in ensuring that the Agricultural sector does not collapse. As we celebrate the year of Charlotte Maxeke let us remember that those of us who are in the leadership have a huge responsibility to deliver on the hopes and aspirations which our people have bestowed on us. The promise we can give to our people is that until all of us particularly the vulnerable obtain a better life we shall never relent. The African National Congress remains the only hope for a better life to the masses of our people and therefore those of us who have been given this responsibility to lead promise to always put our people first. Victory is certain. Aluta Continua

**Thank you very much.**