



agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
agriculture, land reform & rural development
NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Speech

By MEC Norman Shushu, MPL
on the occasion of the tabling of the
Budget Vote Speech

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
28 May 2013
Northern Cape Provincial Legislature
Kimberley

"Awaking on Friday morning, June 20, 1913, the South African Native found himself, not actually a slave, but a pariah in the land of his birth"

**Honourable Speaker and Madame Deputy Speaker
Honourable Premier, Mme Sylvia Lucas
Members of the Executive Council
Honourable Members of the Legislature
Leaders of Local Government
Traditional Leaders
Agricultural sector Partners present;
Veterans of our struggle organized under the ANC Veterans League;
Former members of our Glorious Army Umkhonto we Sizwe organized under (MKMVA);
Distinguished Guests and People of the Northern Cape;
Comrades
Ladies and gentlemen**

Honourable Speaker, the above quotation was taken from Solomon Tshekiso Plaatje's Book, Native Life in South Africa. The book was written in the immediate aftermath of the proclamation of the 1913 Natives Land Act by the colonisers in the Union of South Africa. This has more relevance this year as we would be commemorating 100 years since the legalisation of the dispossession of the African people in the country of their birth through the Natives Land Act of 1913. This is a painful reminder of the history of conquests and dispossession by the colonisers, not only of South Africa, but that of Africa in its entirety and the resultant destruction of communities, livelihoods and the human spirit. It is a reminder of the stark reality of the fallacy of the claim to property rights by descendants of the European settlers, a right which they had appropriated unto themselves through an illegal and illegitimate piece of legislation, the Natives Land Act of 1913. We, however, through our magnanimity and humility, have accommodated this through negotiated settlement and the 1994 democratic breakthrough. It is sad though, that our magnanimity and reconciliatory attitude is not being reciprocated adequately.

We are also presenting this budget speech in the immediate aftermath of the successful hosting, by our Province during the month of April, of the National Khoi-San Dialogue. The dialogue is a platform that is being created for interaction between the democratic government and the indigenous communities of the Khoi and the San. It is a platform that is intended to create dialogue between the different stakeholders pursuant to the announcement of the President His Excellency President Jacob Zuma on the occasion of the State of the Nation Address when he announced the reopening of the lodgement of land claims to accommodate those who had been negatively affected by the December 1998 cut-off date. The ANC led democratic government is thus taking active measures to deal with the impediments that have led to the exclusion of the KHOI and the SAN through the Natives Land Act of 1913.

The Khoikhoi were the first native people whom the Dutch settlers came into contact with as they, uninvited, invaded the Cape in the mid-17th Century. As the uninvited guests started taking land through the barrel of a gun to establish farms and in the process dispossessed our people, enslaved them and exterminated them and leading to their almost extinction. This is indeed a painful part of

our history that we can never forget lest we mislead our children about the experiences of our indigenous people. This dialogue amongst the Khoi-San themselves was an epic and historical moment, one which has not been embarked upon before. It re-affirms the ANC Government's commitment to address the concerns and needs of the Khoi and San communities, and to social cohesion, nation building and addressing the legacy of colonialism subjugation and dispossession as well as apartheid. We were able to establish a National Working Group comprised of 5 persons per province to begin work on a plethora of issues related to matters affecting the Khoi and San in our country.

Honourable Speaker, we are also presenting this budget speech amidst a subdued performance of the agricultural sector which has not, unfortunately, escaped the clutches of the 2007 global capitalist crisis whose tremors are still being felt today. This is reflected in the contribution of the agricultural sector to the Provincial GDP which indicates that the contribution of agricultural has decreased from R2.174 billion in 2008 to R2.081 billion in 2011, a decrease of 4.3% over a three year period. This is indicative of a decrease in total production. This is in line with agriculture on a national level which has seen a similar decrease from R42.1 billion to R41.5 billion or 1.3% over the same period. Despite this, the agricultural sector of the Northern Cape still contributes more than 6% of the national agricultural sector with the mining sector being the only other sector of the Provincial economy that can match this and underlines the importance of the agricultural sector within the Provincial economy. If this is considered with the fact that agriculture in the Province accounts for about 15% of total employment, it not only highlights the importance of the sector in employment opportunities, but also indicates that it contributes a larger proportion to employment per unit economic activity than the rest of the economy.

Honourable Speaker and Members of this august house, the economic downturn did not lead to a decrease in food prices but instead, over the same period, we saw an increase in the price of food. The Quarterly Food Price Monitor of February 2013 indicates that the analysis of the food basket composed of maize meal, white and brown bread, cooking oil, milk, eggs, chicken and vegetables indicates that from January 2012 to January 2013 the cost of this basic food basket increased by about R27.68 (+6.4 %) compared to a higher increase of 10.6 % from October 2011 to October 2012. The cost of this food basket expressed as a share of the average monthly income of the poorest 30 % of the population increased from 38.0 % in January 2012 to 40.4 % in January 2013 during this analysis period. The cost of the food basket expressed as a share of the average monthly income of the wealthiest 30 % of the population increased from 3.0 % to 3.2 %. This is indicative of the hardships that confront the working class and poor of our Province and the major tasks that face our Department to ensure food security. Comparing the January 2012 to January 2013 year on year prices, many of the food groups within this particular food basket experienced inflation, with the highest inflation within the following categories: vegetables, eggs and bean products. When comparing January 2012 with January 2013, the significant price inflation of more than 8 % was experienced for many of these products within the food basket.

This could have a negative impact on household food security in South Africa, affecting the affordability of important staple foods as well as food items that make a major contribution to dietary diversity. When comparing the inflation rates for January 2012 and January 2013 and with October 2011 and October 2012, inflation increased for a number of the categories in this food basket, including vegetables, eggs, fats, oil, coffee and tea. It is therefore becoming increasingly clear that while the inflationary and price pressure continue to bear on our people, the tasks facing all of us are enormous to at least, in the short term, ameliorate the conditions of our people, which remain those of abject poverty and squalor.

Honourable Speaker, in 2009 the ANC led government, through a popular mandate of the people of this country and that of our Province through the ballot and not the liberal anti-majoritarian offensive, adopted 5 key priorities which included Comprehensive Rural Development linked to land and agrarian reform. We introduced comprehensive rural development to mobilise and support rural communities to become agents for economic and social transformation of their own

communities. The Provincial Government adopted a Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy which formed the basis for our intervention in the identified areas, working together with our communities. The intention of our rural development strategy is the creation of vibrant rural economies and sustainable livelihoods which must include the improvement of economic infrastructure through the development of access roads in the rural areas, fencing for agriculture, irrigation infrastructure, water for livestock and human consumption, agro-processing and marketing infrastructure. Storage facilities, distribution and transport networks and rural electrification are critical to ensure sustainable livelihoods in the rural areas, which are in the main, based on agriculture. The vision is to have vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all. We are indeed happy, as a Provincial Government, to pronounce for all to know, that indeed we have made significant strides.

Honourable Speaker, we are able to report that the success in Riemvasmaak provides evidence of an integrated approach to development on what could be achieved when government, non-governmental institutions and our communities pool our resources together. We have been able to achieve the following in Riemvasmaak:

- The construction of 120 low cost houses with Solar Panels
- We have been able to provide water to the community
- A primary health care facility was built for the community
- We have been able to provide sanitation
- An Early Childhood Development Centre was built
- We have upgraded the Sports facilities in the area including the upgrading of the community halls

We have built, as part of the main infrastructure in Riemvasmaak, a main water pipeline in Sending pipeline and a reservoir to provide water for domestic use. A bulk water system for irrigation has been developed in Vredesvallei to enable the development of 80ha for agricultural purposes. A 220 km fence was built and 22 stock water systems were constructed to improve livestock farming and commercialize some of the units. Additional 63 stock water systems will be constructed during this financial year.

Honourable Speaker, we have also been able to develop a Tourism Master Plan to inform further development of tourism attractions in Riemvasmaak. A Project Manager for the implementation of the tourism master plan has been appointed and community members have been trained on Tourism.

We have been able to expand our Comprehensive Rural Development Programme to Heuningvlei in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District. We were able to upgrade the Heuningvlei Bulk Water Supply Scheme, the stock water infrastructure for phase 1 has been completed and it is in operation. This includes 155 km of water pipeline, 33 drinking troughs and 11 reservoirs. Phase 2 of the bulk water system is in progress. A 143 km fence has been constructed as part of livestock infrastructure upgrading and 200 households at Heuningvlei and Madibeng were provided with solar lighting.

In the Renosterberg Municipality, Pixley ka Seme District we have established 2 community food gardens and 80 household gardens in both Phillipstown and Petrusville. We have also trained 6 young people on the trade of windmill repairing. The Environmental Impact Assessment for the construction of the pig houses has been concluded and the construction will start during this quarter and 4 boreholes have already been drilled for the provision of water.

A feasibility study for small scale fishery at Van Der Kloof Dam has commenced and will be completed in this financial year. We have also conducted a livestock census in this area and we are busy with animal vaccinations.

Honourable Speaker, we have also been able to implement a number of projects as part of our CRDP in Schmidtsdrift, Pixley Ka Seme District to kick start infrastructure development in the area.

119 kilometres of fencing was constructed and 40 local people were trained on fence construction. A further 80km of fencing path has been cleared and construction will start during this quarter. We have also been able to construct mobile livestock handling facilities in this area and 10 boreholes have been drilled and water reticulation has been completed. 78 water tanks and 96 drinking troughs were installed. In the past financial year 17 new boreholes have been drilled and 12 were equipped with solar pumps and water reticulation, we intend to equip the remaining 5 during this financial year. We have already identified a site for the establishment of a food garden and construction is about to start.

We have also constructed 100 flush toilets in Schmidtsdrift and construction for bulk water infrastructure is currently underway, 17 local people have been employed on this project and two local companies sub contracted to do the job. The Solar electrification of 200 households is also currently underway and 12 local people have been trained to do installation and maintenance of the solar panels. We have also established 1 agricultural and 14 non-agricultural co-operative's that we also provide with support.

Honourable Speaker, we believe that the resolution of our colonial agrarian question will be more persuasive if it is linked to the eradication of poverty through the transformation of our colonial industrial structure as a necessary condition for social transformation. Conversely, land redistribution will be less persuasive if it is just for moral reasons and not intended to fundamentally alter ownership patterns of the means of production or for any other economic benefit for the historically marginalised rural motive forces for change. It is therefore important that our land reform and agrarian strategy is linked to transforming our colonial industrial structure to a more diversified economy and reduce our dependency on commercial agriculture for food production and global capital for the financing of agricultural initiatives. It is therefore important that we anchor our rural development strategy on distributing productive assets such as land, instruments and socio-economic infrastructure to the rural poor. It is important that we recognise rural development as being about the human development which includes, but is not limited to agriculture and land redistribution. However land and agrarian transformation should be the cornerstones for rural development.

It is for this reason that the Department provides support to land and agrarian reform beneficiaries to enable their active participation in the agricultural sector value chain and downstream beneficiation activities. We use the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme as a locomotive to provide agricultural support to beneficiaries of land reform as well as other emerging producers who have acquired land through private means. Since 2009, a total of 86 projects were supported through the CASP to the tune of R246 470 million, benefitting 6 711 farmers.

Honourable Speaker, to fight poverty through the increase of food production through farming and to unlock agricultural production, 42 projects with 4128 beneficiaries were also supported through the ILIMA/LETSEMA programme to the tune of about R184 million. This support was in the form of infrastructure which includes fencing, stock water systems, stock handling facilities, irrigation infrastructure, agro-processing and packing facilities; mechanization, production inputs and training and capacity building.

Furthermore, through the National Mechanisation Scheme that was launched on 6th December 2012 at Soverby in the Siyanda District, 58 projects received tractors, trailers and implements to enable the farmers to produce optimally.

In as far as access to markets is concerned, 157 smallholder entities were assisted to access markets for various commodities. The Tshwaragang Hydroponics Project in Windsorton and the Emthanjeni Hydroponics project in the Emthanjeni Municipality were assisted and are now selling their produce to Shoprite through Fresh Mark, Kopanang Project in Barkley West is selling their produce to Fruit & Veg City whilst the Manyeding Project in the Joe Morolong Municipality in Manyeding village is selling their fresh produce to Spar just to mention but a few. Furthermore, 12

smallholder farmers were assisted to market their lamb through the Karoo Meat of Origin Trademark, famously known as the “Karoo Lamb”. The Ramskop, Calvinia Abattoir Joint Venture between KLK, workers trust, small holder farmers and commercial farmers was established to promote & support the ownership of market channels by the previously marginalised producers.

To ensure a link between land and agrarian reform programmes and water resource allocation, 2361 ha water use licenses were issued to the previously marginalised, largely farm workers, to ensure that they participate in the agricultural development along the Orange River. Another 630 hectares application were recommended by the Co-ordinating Committee on Agricultural Water to the Department of Water Affairs for approval. The allocation of these water rights is part of our Orange River Emerging Farmer Support and Development Programme (OREFSDP).

Honourable Speaker and Members, 64 farms have received the Nguni cattle as part of our Livestock Improvement Programme (LIP). Each farm has received 2 bulls and 10 heifers, included with the off spring, the total herd of Nguni cattle now stands at 2 000 to date. The main aim of this programme is to improve the genetic composition of the livestock for these farmers. Some of the farmers have started to pass on the gift from the Department by returning the off springs of the same number of animals that they have received. This Nguni project has now been expanded to include other animal breeds, and it is now called the Northern Cape Beef Cattle Production and Development Programme.

In addition to this, Boer Goat, Kalahari Red Rams, Dorper and Meat Master Rams were provided to the Mier and Riemvasmaak farmers as part of our assistance to historically marginalised livestock farmers.

Honourable Speaker, we have also been able to assist the small fishing communities of Hondeklipbaai and Port Nolloth through the provision of fully equipped fishing boats and equipment to enable them to use their fishing quotas optimally by using modern equipment. 120 beneficiaries benefited through this project of which 40 are women and 20 young people. The handing over of this equipment took place on the 22nd March 2013 in Hondeklipbaai.

Honourable Speaker, access to finance is a great impediment to most small holder farmers and in an attempt to make sure that our farmers have access to affordable credit facilities, 144 farmers received loans to the tune of R 10, 245 million under the Micron Agricultural Finance Institution of South Africa (MAFISA) loan scheme.

We have also identified training as a necessity for the development of our emerging farmers and in this regard we have established 43 new agricultural cooperatives as part of our institutional development and support. A lot of work has also been done on the training and capacity building of existing cooperatives, especially those that were no longer active, to revive them and build capacity to ensure proper administration and management. The Provincial Developing Poultry Farmers Organisation (DPFO), which is a development structure of the South African Poultry Association, was launched in April 2012 in John Taolo Gaetsewe District. The objective of this organisation is to provide development support to the emerging poultry industry, to date 30 poultry groups have affiliated to the DPFO.

Honourable Speaker, as part of our mandate to ensure food security, 1912 backyard food gardens, 19 institutional and 391 school gardens were established and we continue to provide support to them. In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 17 small holder farmers were assisted last year to plant 954ha of maize as part of our government's intervention towards dealing with the rising food prices. This contributes towards the national target of reducing poverty and hunger by 50% by 2014.

Over the years, the Department, based on the War on Poverty referrals, made several food security interventions that provided support to households to produce some of their own food. The support

included the distribution of 700 point – of – lay hens with 70 bags of feeds and 900 vegetable packs to households in the John Taolo Gaetsewe and Pixley ka Seme Districts. This was done in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations.

Honourable Speaker, we have also been able to construct a sheep shearing facility in Carnarvon and a stock water system was installed for the Carnarvon emerging farmers for the promotion of wool production. In Britstown we constructed a soil conservation structure to protect a floodplain of 300 ha and created 15 temporary jobs.

The Vaalharts/Taung revitalization feasibility study has been completed at a cost of R4,8 million and over the last 4 years we have designed and installed sub-surface drainage systems on 45 plots and constructed storage dams for 17 plots. We were able to build 9 broiler houses for the Warrenton Super Chicken Project with a capacity of 10 000 each and the abattoir has been upgraded with a total spent of approximately R15 million.

We launched the National Fencing Scheme in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District during the 2012/13 financial year and 234 kilometres of fences were constructed in Heuningvlei, Bunhill, Magonate, Lynster, Hull and Abbey.

Honourable Speaker, we are pleased to announce that the construction and installation of the pasteurising and processing equipment as well as the construction of the tea bag filling plant has been completed at a cost of approximately R40 million at the Niewoudtville Rooibos Tea Processing Plant in the Namakwa District. Over the last year, a total of 1,058 million kilograms of tea was pasteurised and sold at an amount of R17 million of which 50% was for the export market. We continue to assist the emerging Rooibos tea farmers with the procurement of diesel, mobile toilets, mobile trailers, welding machines and seeds for planting, storage buildings as well as tractors and implements for planting and harvesting. 20 permanent jobs and 40 temporary jobs were created through this initiative.

The preservation of our natural and agricultural resources is paramount and the education of young people and children on the preservation of these resources is imperative. The Department has, over the years, been running Junior Land Care Programs that are intended to inform young people about the preservation of our resources. Various events were held at places like Tankwa and Muisvlak Motel in the Namakwa district. A total number of 56 learners from the Okiep and Concordia primary schools were participants in the Muisvlak awareness campaign and 28 learners attended the Tankwa event.

Eradication of invader species on a farm in Majeng where a project was implemented for the eradication of invader species such as swarthaak trees (*acasia melifera*) to increase the stocking rate of the farm. A total number of 1200 hectares were improved for which 22 people were employed under EPWP guidelines. At Heuningvlei 8ha of various cactus species were manually removed, the dominating specie being the “boxing glove” and 8ha was improved in terms of the stocking rate for grazing animals to enable sustainable livestock farming in the area.

Honourable Speaker, our Province, like the rest of South Africa, is starting to feel the impact of global warming and the change in climatic conditions. As a result, we are starting to see higher incidences of disasters that affect the agricultural sector. We are pleased to announce that the Disaster and Risk Management Plan, developed in conjunction with the University of the Free State, has been completed. We experienced drought in the Namakwa District and raging veld fires in the John Taolo Gaetsewe and Frances Baard Districts which destroyed approximately 250 000ha of grazing land. These veld fires occurred during October and November in Kuruman, Koopmansfontein, Olifantshoek, Loopeng, Deerward, Glenred, Manyeding and Kono. Containment of the fires at the Koopmansfontein area was a major challenge due to extremely dry weather and strong winds. We were able to contain the fires with the assistance of 2 Helicopters from the South African National Defence Force and the fire fighting helicopter and spotter plane

from the Working for Fire program. It was during one of these operations that one of the helicopters crashed and seriously injured an engineer of the Department, Mr Graham Sahling, who has since passed on, May His Dear Soul Rest in Peace. We made available, in the immediate aftermath of the veld fires, R2, 75 million for the procurement and transportation of feed to support 30 commercial and 548 emerging farmers.

Honourable Speaker, we have committed ourselves as a Department to ensuring that prudent and efficient use of the Flood Assistance Scheme Conditional Grant must become a cornerstone for the spending of the Flood Assistance Scheme Conditional Grant. We have provided assistance, to date, to 326 farmers as well as to communities in the Eksteenskuil, Soverby and Onseepkans areas who reported major damage to the flood protection walls, roads as well as irrigation and other infrastructure as a result of the 2011 floods. A total of 104 farm plans have been compiled, surveys done on 167 flood diversion walls which covers a distance of 81 483 metres and a volume of 1 651 411 cubic metres of fill material to repair. Plans, specifications and subsidy approvals with a total value of R114, 049 million were issued to the farmers for the repair of these works. Work to the value of R70 million rand was completed and farmers reimbursed for repairs that they have carried out on their own. Consulting Engineers have been appointed to assist with the planning, design and construction contract management in order to repair the Onseepkans, Eksteenskuil and Soverby damaged infrastructure. Emergency cleaning of the Onseepkans canal was carried out at a cost of R1, 6 million to ensure that small scale farmers can continue using the canal. Five diversion weirs supplying water for the Blocuso farmers at Soverby were repaired and the bush at Witbank was cleared in preparation for the rebuilding of the 10 kilometre canal that supplies water to 180ha of irrigation.

We will fast track our expenditure on the flood assistance scheme to give impetus to production output for those farmers who were heavily affected by the floods. We will continue with the replacement of the existing canal at Onseepkans and the distribution infrastructure at a cost of approximately R50 million. In Eksteenskuil we will repair the damage to the infrastructure and the roads, bridges, protection walls, soil conservation works including sub surface drainage systems at a cost of about R26 million. In the Witbank area we are going to be replacing the existing canal and distribution infrastructure at a cost of approximately R30 million. We would also be repairing damaged flood walls for farmers at an estimated cost of R228 million. We anticipate to spend R350 million of our flood disaster allocation in the current financial year for the benefit of both commercial and emerging farmers.

Honourable Speaker, animal health is a priority to this Department and we are working on means to ensure that Public Animal Health is also prioritised for the benefit, in particular, for the benefit of emerging livestock farmers who do not have readily available access to private veterinary practitioners. It is through the work of our Mobile Veterinary Truck that we have been able to reach out to the most rural parts of our Provinces in order to provide Primary Animal Health Care using state of the art equipment. Delicate operations such as spays have been performed on the truck by a team of experienced veterinarians. Since the launch of our Mobile Veterinary Truck Service, 11 sterilization campaigns were held in remote areas where our people do not have access to private veterinary services. Over 150 animals were sterilised and more than 1000 dipped and dewormed during these campaign.

Honourable Speaker, we are proud to announce that all 47 Red Meat Abattoirs in the province have completed the upgrading of their facilities and this makes the Northern Cape the ONLY PROVINCE to have achieved 100% compliance with the Meat Safety Act.

Since 2009, our Veterinary Services have played a critical role in creating awareness within our communities around Rabies and the World Rabies Day, the single largest rabies education and outreach initiative is observed every year in about 135 countries. The purpose of World Rabies Day is to educate people about the risk of rabies, promote global awareness of its prevention and to mobilise resources to support local rabies prevention campaigns.

We have prioritised Rift Valley Fever and Anthrax and developed contingency plans which include the development of Early Warning Systems to predict future outbreaks. We also have a variety of indigenous and exotic diseases which commonly attack livestock and continued vaccination is the only way most of them can be controlled. During the period 2009 to date, 257 467 animals were vaccinated against various controlled animal diseases such as Rabies (67 524), Anthrax (181 118) and Newcastle (8 824), a strain of chicken disease.

The export industry suffered a major blow in 2011 when the World Organisation for Animal Health temporarily suspended South Africa's Food and Mouth Disease (FMD) Free International status forcing it to ban all exports of potentially infected animal products. In the same year, the banning of ostrich meat and other meat products to other countries due to the outbreak of the Avian Influenza did not help matters, 8 farms in the Northern Cape were affected by this ban. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is now busy with a process of re-registering farms in order to have the European Union (EU) ban on ostrich meat exports lifted.

We are also working closely with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, in collaboration with the Cuban Government, through their embassy in South Africa, to recruit veterinary practitioners, animal health technicians and engineers to boost our capacity to better service the sector within our Province.

Honourable Speaker, Agricultural research is an integral part of ensuring the sustainability of agricultural activity, be it crop production or livestock farming. Our Department is responsible for seven research stations throughout the Province which act as natural laboratories for animal production, crop production as well as natural resource management research centres. Through our work in this directorate, we have been able to assist with the construction of the milk goat Research Facility at the Rietrivier Research station in Ritchie. We continue with research on crops such as lucerne, grain, cotton and oil seeds and look at alternative crops such as Cactus Pear and Bamboo trees. We have made presentations to different scientific forums and wrote a number of articles in popular agricultural research publications on the crossbreeding of beef cattle, Karoo meat of origin and the Tankwa goats.

We have also provided support to three different groups of beneficiaries benefitting from the Nguni Cattle. Farmers attended training and farmers days on Nguni Cattle production. We also provided training to 238 members of different cooperatives within the commercialisation of goats programme focussing on corporate governance, animal husbandry, production and financial management.

Honourable Speaker, our initial research shows that the Lower Orange River Area has experienced an above average vineyard production season and table grape exports is expected to have exceeded 16 million crates while dry grape production is expected to have exceeded 40 000 tons. Similarly, the wine grape harvest is expected to reach approximately 170 000 tons and the estimated farm gate value of these products exceeds R2 billion. However, the grape industry in the Lower Orange is threatened by insects and disease. We have noted the ever increasing threat of the mardigradus and fruit fly in vineyards within the Province. These insects have the potential to severely affect production figures but also have phytosanitary implications for our export products. We have sourced R550 000 from the Comprehensive Agricultural Support (CASAP) Programme in order to conduct in depth research on these insects in collaboration with the grape industry. This proactive action will assist in the preservation of the Northern Cape as a preferred area of production for grapes. Our research is, in the main, intended to find new initiatives and strives to assist the agricultural sector to find solutions to the challenges experienced by the sector and find creative ways of solving these and keep farmers abreast of production trends within the sector.

Honourable Speaker, the land question and access to land remains a critical question, particularly to the working class, poor and landless people of our Province. It is therefore important that we must continue with our efforts to make land available to our people. Since 2009 we have been able to make 66 farms available totalling 407 005.3052 ha of land available benefiting 251 people. This

includes 48 young people and 47 women. We have also been able to recapitalise 37 farms with a total hectares of 107 861 involving 116 women and we provided training to 48 people in the process. Through this initiative, we were able to create 189 permanent jobs.

We have also been able to settle 2344 claims of which 1844 were urban claims and 500 were rural claims. 215 claims, 43 urban and 172 rural claims were dismissed for non-compliance with the legal requirements. The Regional Land Claims Commission for the Northern Cape/Free State received 2747 claims of which 1892 of these were urban claims and 855 were rural claims. A total of eighty two million eight hundred and sixty nine thousand seven hundred and sixteen rand (R82 869 716,00) was paid out as financial compensation since 2009 for those claimants who opted to take financial compensation.

Honourable Speaker, as part of our land restitution process we have also been able to establish 54 Communal Property Association (CPA's) in the Province of which 29 are for restitution and 25 deal with redistribution. It has not been plain sailing for a number of these CPA's as conflict between and among members of the Executive Committees and claimants themselves. In most cases, our experience has been that the conflict is triggered, in the main, by private business interests, which seek to divide the communities for their profit motives and access to the mineral resources which are found in most of these areas. This has, in some instances, led to a total collapse of some CPA's and leading to others being placed under administration as they are unable to carry out their duties in the interest of the communities they are supposed to serve. We must also report that we have had instances where infighting and conflicts have led to the illegal sale of land to some commercial farmers involving several CPA's including Dirisanag, Boichoko and Langvervagt. This is a practice that we must condemn and call upon all CPA's to desist from such action.

Honourable Speaker, we have established the Planning, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PPME) Unit in order to ensure that our performance is in line with our Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan and that we comply with all other statutory requirements in the execution of our mandate. The interventions implemented by our Department to build capacity for both planning and performance monitoring resulted in a clean audit on pre-determined objectives. Key to this success was formulation and implementation of the departmental monitoring and evaluation framework which outlines the procedure for the management of performance information. In addition, two officials were appointed to further boost the capacity of the directorate PPME. All the officials have undergone training in monitoring and evaluation while three are currently studying with the University of Stellenbosch towards a qualification on monitoring and evaluation. These interventions will continue and in other areas be strengthened in the ensuing financial years. Efforts are currently underway to ensure that the planning capacity of the department is improved in line with the audit-action plan. In this respect, a total of 19 planning workshops were held with programmes to review the annual performance plan, develop plans for the new financial year and disseminate relevant information on planning requirements. Central to these workshops was an endeavour to ensure that the plans of the department respond sufficiently to the policy priorities of government. In the year under review the key policy development that had to be responded to is the National Development Plan 2030. The future plans will entail clear linkages and programmes that have to be implemented in contribution to the objectives of the National Development Plan 2030.

It is against the backdrop of improved capacity in the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Chief-Directorate directorate that the focus in the new financial year will be on the evaluation of departmental projects, programmes and interventions. This is in line with the improvement plan pertaining to the Management Performance Assessment Tool self-assessment report and the national monitoring and evaluation plan. Furthermore, efforts will be made to ensure that the results of the evaluations are used to inform departmental planning and formulation of service delivery improvement plans.

Honourable Speaker, our Department received three consecutive unqualified audit opinions since the 2008/09 financial year. However, we noticed a regression in the last audit outcome mainly due to

expenditure. The adverse audit finding came about as a direct result of fraud that was detected during the audit of the 2011/12 financial year, 2 officials from the Chief Directorate Financial Management were subsequently suspended and following an internal disciplinary process one official was dismissed and is facing criminal charges. We instituted a special investigation with the appointment of the Auditor General to determine if there were any other fictitious companies trading with the Department and the outcome of this investigation indicated that this was an isolated incident. We have also developed an audit action plan whose primary objective is to improve on all the weaknesses identified by the Auditor General in our quest to receive a clean audit moving forward.

Honourable Speaker, since 2010, we have extended our bursary scheme in order to ensure that there is development and upgrading of capacity to deliver services within the Department. We have also expanded this bursary scheme to include learners from poor working class background who show potential but have limited or no access to finance their tertiary studies. Since 2010 until 2013 we have assisted 224 learners from historically marginalised communities in order to allow them to have access higher education. We have also granted 110 employees from the Department bursaries in order to develop their capacity to deliver services. Of the 224 learners from outside the Department, 55 of them have already completed their studies and are a repository of skill from which Provincial Government can tap from. We have provided bursaries to students in a broad array of fields including Agricultural Management, Veterinary Science, Crop Science, Civil Engineering, Land Reform and Rural Development, Animal Health, Agricultural Economic, Horticulture and other fields. The total cost of our bursary scheme since 2010 is R6, 7 million. We have also provided training, as part of the Extension Recovery Program (ERP) to 68 employees in order to upgrade their academic qualifications and to date 33 have successfully completed their studies. We also have 3 Pupil Animal Health Technicians who have qualified and will be absorbed into the department and 9 more who will complete during this financial year and next year.

Honourable Speaker, we made a commitment to playing our part as a Department to the creation of decent work. We have created 25 permanent jobs through the in-sourcing of both the security and cleaning contracts the Department had, this year we would be appointing a further 14 employees to bring the figure to 39. We are anticipating to, within the first quarter of this financial year, fill 46 positions to bring the figure to 105 permanent jobs created within the Department since 2010.

Honourable Speaker, The Department's total budget allocation for the 2013/14 financial year is R690.023 million. This is a 5 per cent decrease when compared to the original estimate of the 2012/13 financial year. Over the MTEF, the budget grows to R736.620 million in the 2015/16 financial year. The equitable share allocation in the 2013/14 financial year amounts to R235.845 million and grows consistently throughout the Medium Term Expenditure Framework period though the rate of increase fluctuates. In 2013/14 the growth is 4.5 per cent, in 2014/15 it is 6.7 per cent and drops to 3.8 per cent in 2015/16.

Programme 1, Administration is allocated R85 million which is a growth of 9.8% compared to the previous year's allocation. The key priorities that we have identified for this programme are the following:

- The Implementation of the audit-action plan to work towards achieving a clean audit
- To develop a Service Delivery Improvement Plan (SDIP)
- To coordinate strategic planning within the Department
- To review and implement the departmental Monitoring and Evaluation framework
- Implementation of effective and efficient governance
- To promote accountability and reporting
- To provide ICT support in order to improve communication

Programme 2, Sustainable Resource Management has the largest share, 43% of the budget allocation in the 2013/14 financial year at R292, 507 million. This programme includes the funding

for the Flood Assistance Scheme which amounts to R263.084 million. The identified priorities for this programme are the following:

- Implementation of the Flood Assistance Scheme
- Continued implementation of the Vaalharts/Taung Revitalization Programme
- Support to the CRDP sites of Riemvasmaak, Heuningvlei, Renosterberg Municipality and Schmidtsdrift)
- Implementation of the LandCare Programme
- Support the implementation of CASP and Ilima/Letsema
- Funding for our activities in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) and related legislation that deal with rezoning, inputs to Environmental Impact Assessment processes, sub-divisioning of agricultural land and the utilization of virgin soil
- Our coordination and response to agricultural disasters like veld fires, drought and floods
- Finalisation of the Disaster Risk Contingency Plan and
- Agricultural Infrastructure Development

Honourable Speaker, the allocation also includes funding for the Land Care Projects of R12 million inclusive of the National Fencing Scheme. This allocation has been divided as follows between three Districts:

- R1 million for the Pixley Ka Seme District
- R8,3 million for the John Taolo Gaetsewe District and
- R1,8 million for the Namakwa District

Programme 3 Farmer Support and Development is allocated an amount of R214, 710 million and accounts for 31% of the total budget allocation. This programme includes both the CASP and Ilima/Letsema conditional grants. Honourable Speaker, of the total budget allocated to this Programme, the CASP Conditional Grant accounts for R73,1 million and the Ilima/Letsema Conditional Grant constitutes R70 million. Our allocation for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme per District is as follows:

- R24 million for the John Taolo Gaetsewe District
- R16 million for the Pixley Ka Seme District
- R13 million for the Frances Baard District
- R6, 6 million for the Namakwa District and
- R4,7 million for the Siyanda District

The Budget Allocation for the ILIMA/Letsema conditional Grant has been allocated as follows to the Districts:

- R5 million for the Pixley Ka Seme District
- R22 million for the Frances Baard District
- R2,7 million for the Namakwa District and
- R40 million for the Siyanda District

The Key Priorities for this programme are the following;

- Implementation of CASP and Ilima/Letsema programmes.
- Implementation of the Orange River Emerging Farmer Support and Development Programme
- Implementation of the Vineyard Development Programme
- Provision of agricultural extension and advisory services
- Training and capacity building of farmers through short courses, demonstrations, information days and workshops;
- Coordinate and implement food security initiatives.
- Establishment of the Food Bank in collaboration with IFSNP stakeholders
- Implementation of the Zero Hunger Programme

- Provision of support to land holding institutions
- Provide support to municipalities for the improved management of commonage land will be increased.

Programme 4 Veterinary Services has been allocated R35,6 million and the key priorities of the programme are;

- Roll out of the Primary Animal Health Care project
- Deployment of newly graduated veterinarians to render compulsory community services
- Control of Livestock Diseases
- Provide advice to farmers to continue vaccinating their livestock against diseases including Rift Valley Fever.
- Continuation of the Rabies Awareness campaign leading up to world rabies day with specific emphasis on Springbok area;
- Improvement of livestock production through the introduction of herd health which will be done in two ways i.e. Bull fertility testing in John Taolo Gaetsewe District and Ram fertility testing in Siyanda District.

Programme 5: Technology Research and Development has been allocated R44, 6 million which include earmarked funding for the Commercialization of Goats. This amount represents a 18% reduction from the previous financial years' allocation mainly due to the baseline reduction of the total allocation of the Department. Priorities identified include the following:

- The development of a geo-spatial crop development strategy;
- Commercialization of goats with a focus on the elevation of subsistence farmers to commercial level through training, provision of seed stock and linkages to markets;
- To Investigate factors affecting production and reproduction in dairy goats;
- Focus on early warning systems and quantification of drought and veld fire risk
- To conduct research on animal and crop production

Programme 6 Agriculture Economics has been allocated R9 million and the following are the key priorities for the programme:

- The development of the cooperatives movement within the agricultural sector and to provide them with the necessary support
- Market facilitation and export readiness support
- Develop feasibility and viability studies of proposed projects
- Agro-processing facilitation and support
- To provide macro-economic analysis

Programme 7: Rural Development Co-ordination has been allocated about R7 million and the following are the identified key priorities:

- To coordinate developmental activities and institutional arrangements in the identified CRDP sites.
- Monitoring and reporting on rural development progress
- Farm worker development and the facilitation of the expansion of government services to farm workers and farm dwellers.
- Raising awareness and provision of support on the issues aimed at improving the living conditions of farm workers
- Establishment of Stakeholder Forum to deal with the implementation of the resolutions of the Farm Worker Summits
- Implementation of the Rural Development Strategy

Honourable Speaker, let me take this opportunity to close with the following quote from Friederich Hegel, "The learner always begins by finding fault, but the scholar sees the positive merit in everything." We started off this journey as learners and we believe, working together with our people, we have become scholars.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thanks to our former Premier Mme Hazel Jenkins for her leadership and parental guidance and also wish her well during her recovery .

I would also like to thank the following people:

- Former Acting Premier Mme Grizelda Gjiekella for her leadership
- Madame Premier Mme Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas for her leadership and guidance
- Members of the Executive Council for their collegial support
- Chairperson and Members of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for their oversight role including the Acting Chairperson Mme Gladys Oliphant
- The Leadership collective of the Tri-partite Alliance in the Province for their political guidance
- Women in Agriculture and Rural Development (WARD) for their unwavering commitment to rural development and women empowerment
- Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD), for championing the interests of youth in agriculture
- Members and the leadership of the National African Farmers Union (NAFU), the Griekwaland Wes Kooperasie (GWK), Agri-Noordkaap, the Northern Cape Red Meat Producers Organisation and other stakeholders for their engagements
- Mr. Obed Mvula from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform Provincial Service Centre and his staff for their support
- The Regional Land Claims Office, Northern Cape and Free State Region Ms Cindy Damons and staff for their unwavering support
- The Head of Department, Mr Viljoen Mothibi , Executive and Senior Managers and the entire Staff of the Department for their dedication
- The staff in the Ministry, under the able leadership of the Head of Ministry Comrade Pele Modise for their dedication and support
- Lastly but not least, I would like to thank my wife Mandisa, my children Katlego, Boichoko and Nthabiseng and my whole family for their support

I thank you