



read
Department:
Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



BUDGET SPEECH 18/19 HIGHLIGHTS

AGRICULTURE AS BACKBONE FOR THE ECONOMY

Agriculture remains the largest contributor to provincial economic growth. The province is known to the world over as the important food basket of South Africa and the region. The sector alone in the province contributes a substantial 26.4% towards the economic growth of the country.

MAKING LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The province supports the conscious decision by national government that working with all social partners, the land redistribution programme will be implemented in a way that increases agricultural production, food security and ensures that the land is returned to those whom it was taken during colonialism and apartheid.

AGRI-PARKS

The Department has positioned Agri-parks as a strategic catalysts and enablers towards rural economic transformation. In the 2018/19 financial year, READ Department will continue to support initiatives to establish these AgriParks in Springbokpan (Ditsobotla Local Municipality); Vryburg (Naledi Local Municipality); Makapanstad (Moretele Local Municipality) and Klerksdorp (Matlosana Local Municipality).

AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

To improve market access for agricultural products, Mabeeskraal and Tshidilamolomo Livestock auction facilities were successfully launched in the last financial year, bringing to date a total of four (04) VTSD livestock auction facilities in the province.

TSHIMO YA KGOSI PROGRAMME

In the last financial year the Department spent a total of R6 million where 13 traditional leaders benefitted. Since its inception a total of 48 Dikgosi has been supported and benefited from this programme.

PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION STRATEGY

READ has a plan in place to make irrigation the mainstay of production particularly during dry spells. The Department has committed to raise R5 billion that will go towards irrigation strategy development. This is another attempt by the province to re-ignite growth through irrigation in the entire country, in particular by repositioning the Taung Agricultural College as the Centre of Excellence in Irrigation.

BLACK PRODUCER COMMERCIALISATION PROGRAMME

The Department will soon roll-out the Black Producers Commercialisation Programme (BPCP) to provide comprehensive support to producers and increase access to finance and markets. Through this programme, to date 50 black commercial producers received support and the department has earmarked 50 more black producers who will be supported in this current financial for the period of five years. READ has further embarked on the farmer registration Campaign and to date, 23 450 farmers have registered.

NORTH WEST AGRICULTURAL FUND (NWAFF)

The NWAFF and its operations will be strengthened during this 2018/19 financial year. The Fund will reduce reliance on grants and increase access and affordability of loans by Black Producers. Furthermore, a provision of R165 million is being made available over the MTEF period.

VETERINARY SERVICES

The Department continues to strengthen the veterinary services field in the province to ensure that all threats to animal health and food safety are detected early and dealt with. READ is continuing to train more Compulsory Community Service Veterinarians. Recently new intakes were placed in rural State Veterinary offices in Kagisano, Taung, (Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality) Mahikeng, Ramotshere Moiloa (Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality) Moses Kotane, Madibeng (Bojanala District Municipality) & Potchefstroom centers (Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality).

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

One hundred hectares will be set aside for conservation agriculture at Kgora training centre for this financial year. To this end, Department has trained a total of 3 059 Farmers in various agricultural skills development programmes through Kgora Farmer Training Centre. READ has over the last four years to date facilitated the enrolment and graduation of 224 candidates for agricultural Diplomas in Taung and Potchefstroom Agricultural Colleges. Last year, 10 students graduated in Taung College, with 64 at Potchefstroom College.

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

READ is embarking on a project to resuscitate the Taung Skull World Heritage site. The completion of the Museum is critical towards unlocking the process to repatriate the skull and we hope to complete this by end of financial year.

MEBALA YA RONA BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE AND WILDLIFE AUCTION

Through the Mebala ya Rona Biodiversity Conference the Department has adopted resolutions aimed at accelerating growth in the Wildlife and Biodiversity Sector; to help alleviate poverty and bring about tangible benefits to the communities and populace of Bokone Bophirima.

DROUGHT RELIEF AND MITIGATIONS

The Department has started to prepare for drought through continuing with the fodder banks as an emergency relief scheme to the farmers who are affected by the dry spell or veld fires. Three District offices (Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Dr Segomotsi Mompati) will have their fodder banks and be ready to assist farmers during disaster.

WOMEN, YOUTH AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY (PWD)

The Department resolved to ring-fence 50% of developmental budget for the designated groups (Women, Youth & People With Disability) going forward.

JOB CREATION

As highlighted in the Provincial Budget Speech 2018/2019 The number of people employed in the Agricultural Sector has increased from 34 000 workers in 2012 to about 48 000 by the end of 2016 which account for 14 000 additional jobs.

Departmental Budget Vote 13 amounts to a total of **R1 440 478 000** for the financial year 2018/19 as encapsulated in the following 09 departmental programmes:

Program 1: Administration

R268 486 000

Program 2 : Sustainable Resource Management

R78 132 000

Program 3 : Farmer Support and Development

R423 627 000

Program 4: Veterinary Services R128 524 000

Program 5: Research Technology and Development Services R53 840 000

Program 6: Agricultural Economic Services R12 243 000

Program 7: Structured Agricultural Education and Training R104 795 000

Program 8: Rural Development and Coordination R83 486 000

Program 9 : Environmental Services R287 345 000

Total Departmental Budget:

R1 440 478 000

