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



BUDGET SPEECH

18/19 HIGHLIGHTS

SPECIAL REPORT



MEC Manketsi Tlhape tables Budget Vote Speech for Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development Department

North West Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development MEC, Manketsi Tlhape outlining her departmental set of new priorities and plans for the new financial year. Speaking at the legislature, MEC Tlhape gave a performance review of her department and update on progress made by her department in mobilizing financial resources for financially struggling farming communities of Bokone Bophirima. MEC Tlhape also shared her plans with communities of Bokone Bophirima on improving market access for producers, especially small holder producers and elaborated on department's plans of ensuring that agriculture remains the backbone of the economy in Bokone Bophirima.



MEC: Manketsi Tlhape, HOD: Dr Poncho Mokaila, and team READ after the budget speech presentation.



"Together we move Bokone Bophirima forward"

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AGRICULTURE AS BACKBONE FOR THE ECONOMY

AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT

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.

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

The sector alone in the province contributes a substantial 26.4% towards the economic growth of the country.



MAKING LAND AVAILABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

AGRO-PROCESSING

The province support 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 from whom it was taken during colonialism and apartheid.

In the current financial year, the department will continue to support SMMEs growth for both existing and new enterprises, focusing on vegetable processing plants and hubs, abattoirs, milling plants, and the animal feed mills industry.



AGRI-PARKS

TSHIMO YA KGOSI PROGRAMME

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).

More traditional leaders will continue to benefit from this programme by the Department. 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 have been supported and benefitted from this programme.



PROVINCIAL IRRIGATION STRATEGY

The Department 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 development. This is another attempt by the province to re-ignite growth through irrigation in the entire country, in particular by re-positioning the Taung Village, through the Agricultural College as the Centre of Excellence in Irrigation.



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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.



RECREATIONAL HORSE RACING PROGRAMME

The Department will conclude the Feasibility Study; Business Plan; Concept Designs as well as the Provincial Strategy on Horse Value-Chain during the first Quarter of 2018/19 Financial Year. The intention is to also launch the programme in June 2018.



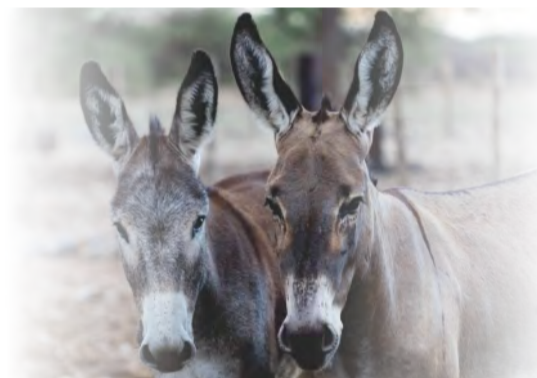
PROVINCIAL INTEGRATED FOOD AND NUTRITION PLAN

Through its agricultural food security initiative, the Department has supported over 5 649 households in the Province with vegetable and fruit tree production packages. The Department has embarked on a coordinated process to champion the development and roll-out of the Provincial Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Plan for 2017-2022 in partnership with all social sector role-players in Government, Private Sector Organisations and civil society. Household Food Security Programme was rolled out from Mazista to Derby as a focal point for the previous financial year.



BOKONE BOPHIRIMA WILDLIFE ACADEMY

Department has launched the Wildlife Academy in Taung on the 2nd February 2018. This saw the commencement of training of 40 wildlife rangers.



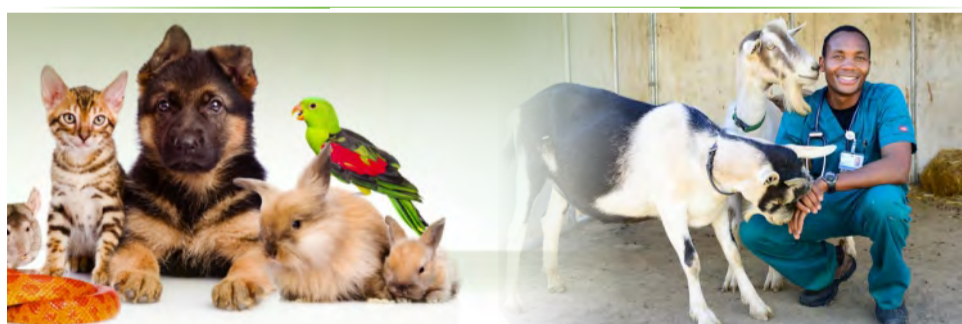
DONKEY VALUE CHAIN

The Department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Juzi Tech to establish a pilot project in Ngaka Modiri Molema District on 100ha of land donated by Barolong Boo-Mariba - Tshidilamolomo village.



NORTH WEST AGRICULTURAL FUND (Nwaf)

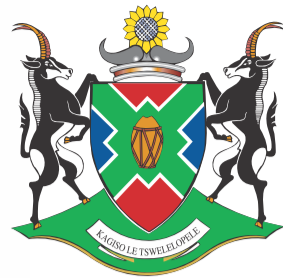
The Nwaf and its operations will be strengthened during this 2018/19 financial year. The Fund will reduce reliance on grants and increase access and affordability of loans by Black Producers. Furthermore, a provision of R165 million is being made available over the MTEF period.



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. The Department 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 Mompoti District Municipality) Mahikeng, Ramotshere Moiloa (Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality) Moses Kotane, Madibeng (Bojanala District Municipality) & JB Marks centers (Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality).





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BEEF EXPORT TO CHINA

The industry continues to grow in leaps and bounds to serve the domestic and international markets. One avenue has been opened to give market access to farmers in the China route. The first three consignments of export of beef to China from the province have been sent during this financial year. Other market opportunities are being explored in China in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), whilst negotiations to include beef from smallholder producers and NEPRO syndicates livestock programme have started.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

100 hectares will be set aside for conservation agriculture at Kgora training centre for this financial year. To this end, the Department has trained a total of 3 059 Farmers in various agricultural skills development programmes through Kgora Farmer Training Centre. The Department 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 candidates graduated in Taung College, with 64 at Potchefstroom College.



LAND CARE PROGRAMME

The Department has dedicated R8 million to implement Land Care in the Province. For 2018/19 our projects have increased from six to eight, amongst the eight projects, two are for Junior Land Care where learners of Bokone Bophirima are taught about Land Care and Food Security.



ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

The Department 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 Taung 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.



NORTH WEST PARKS BOARD

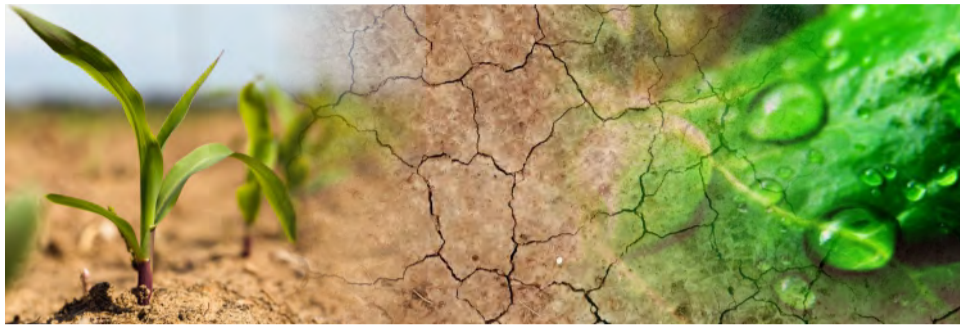
The Department has embarked on expansion of the protected area network and the land recruitment drive while securing inclusion and participation by the previously excluded groups, Facilitating the integration of Community Property Associations who have property inside and adjacent to protected areas into park management and beneficiation programmes, Undertaking Ecological Assessment of properties and game farms with the view of establishing corporative agreements.





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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 Ruth Segomotsi Mompati) will have their fodder banks and be ready to assist farmers during disaster.



DISABILITY

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 2018/19, 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.



BUDGET PROGRAM LIST

- 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**



North West Dep. of Rural Environment and Agricultural Development - READ

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Layout and Design by:
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