



MEC : DESBO MOHONO



2023/24 BUDGET VOTE SPEECH





Hon. Speaker & Deputy Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature

Chief Whip of Majority party

Tonakgolo ya Porofense , Rre Bushy Kaobitsa Maape

Hon. Members of the Executive Council & Hon. Members of the Legislature

Leaders of the Ruling Party ANC led by Chairperson Nono Maloyi, and other political parties

Kgosi Thari Maotwe le Ntlo ya Bogosi mo Profenseng mmogo le Magosi otlhe

Executive Mayors, Mayors, Speakers and Councillors;

Head of Department Rre. Thupi Mokhatla and the team

Youth; Women & People with Disability (PWD) Structures in the sector;

**Organised Agriculture, Farmers, Farm Workers & Farm Dwellers Fora
Labour & Sectoral Unions, Partners and Agricultural stakeholders;**

Our sister departments and all provincial departments that are present;

Esteemed Guests;

Media;

Baagi botlhe ba Porofense ya North West ka lo Dumedisa!



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We present the **2023/2024 budget statement for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development** against a tragic geo-political theatre that has played out for a three-year season. The prologue of this tragic theatre was the unleashing of COVID-19, experienced by the global community at the beginning of 2020. The effects of this pandemic on our lives and the economy are still felt to this day through unemployment, reversal of the gains we were making in access to markets for emerging farmers and against food security uncertainty.

The second aspect of this tragic theatre was and remains the rising tensions between the traditional West and East, as the inevitable shift in the hegemony of power is being experienced with the emergence of stronger economies and global influence from the East, the climax of which is being played out in the war between Russia and Ukraine. As always, when two elephants battle, it is the grass that suffers. This rise in the thickening of the plot of this tragic theatre has seen about uncertainty in global markets, harshly experienced by the political South. Madam Speaker the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine continues to have a negative impact on agriculture globally.

Regardless of what is happening globally, we are proud to have hosted the World Farmers Organisation General Assembly which started on **21 May 2023 and ended on 24 May 2023 in Sun City**. The international farming sector and its leaders including other food systems stakeholders worldwide met and engaged in forward-looking dialogues on enhancing local farmer-driven solutions to global challenges. Among other policies that were discussed in the Assembly, will influence the upcoming **BRICS SUMMIT 2023** that is coming in South Africa.

The United Nations' policy on Livestock farming is under pressure. As many plant based diet advocates for plant protein than red meat protein. Bagaetsho ke nnete ga gotwe ga ene ya komakoma, ebile ena ka letlhakore pula eno ya mathata le dikgwetlho tse Balemirui ba lebaganeng le tsone lefatshe ka bophara jwa lone.



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Honorable Members, Having reached the climax in the plot of this tragic theatrical play; we can go nowhere but to the anti-climax.

The Department acknowledges that we are at a moment of central consequence in the life of our nation. Our farmers are going through tough times; they are increasingly losing hope of ever finding solutions or setting up viable farming models that can sustain their families.

On the other hand, the energy crisis undermines economic viability on businesses and compromises the production of food and the provision of social services. Load shedding happens to be a thorn amongst our farmers, however I am glad to announce to the house at large that through the minister's engagement and advice, the department has established the **Provincial Energy Task Team (PETA)** that will engage with Eskom to possibly exempt the sector looking at agro processing, public entities as matters of food security are at high risk.. Our intent is for them to exempt their schedule to possibly suit their energy needs.

Madam Speaker, we are inspired and reassured by the words of **President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa**, who at the **2023** State of the Nation Address reminded us that we are a nation defined by hope and resilience”.

It is hope and resilience which will ensure that we emerge out of this dark three-year period with determination to move South Africa forward, ensuring that we revive and maximize work on the land, in order to ultimately realize the vision of the Freedom Charter that the land shall be shared amongst those who work on it. Food security is at the heart of Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, as a roadmap out of this dark period.

If all these are in place and our families are reasonably fed, then we can say we are delivering on what is expected of us, as the servants of the people of North West Province.



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Only when the above has been achieved, can we say that we have altered the course, thus ushering hope and signaling inspiration. A story of hope and implementation in all our programmes must begin to define us.

Taking the services to the people and implementing policies, rules and regulations and most importantly being sincere to our farmers should be the order of the day.

Honorable Members, we have been talking, and we are still talking, but are we defined by that or we are defined by the end products we are supposed to deliver to the farmers and our populace?

Madam Speaker, we made commitments for the **2022 / 2023** financial year and we are back here to report to our people on how we fared on the mandated tasks we were provided. This budget vote 13 presentation further seeks to deepen hope amongst our people as we share with them the vision to continue the implementation of our mandated tasks with them, in the **2023 / 2024** financial year.

Motlotlegi Mmusu Kgotla, re filwe ledi leno ka ntlha ya gore bagaetsho ba gaeletswe ebile ba beile tshepo le tumelo mo magetleng a rona. Jaanong tota go matshwanedi gore re dire se se matshwanedi mme re tlogele go inanatha re tshwara re lesa mme go sena tema.

Tloga tloga e tloga kgale Modisa wa tsone o tswa natso, jaanong jaaka ngwaga o simolola jaana re batla go netefatsa go isa ditirelo le go naya botlhe ba ba matshwanedi thuso e e tla ba kgotsofatsang.



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Ledi la rona la monongwaga 2023/2024 le re tlleng go le kgaoganya ka botlhale le eme jaana:

PROGRAMME NAME	TOTAL ALLOCATIO N R000,000	AMOUNT IN WORDS
1. ADMINISTRATION	342 303 000,00	Three hundred and forty-two million, three hundred and three thousand
2. AGRIC PRODUCER SUPPORT AND DEV	471 103 000,00	Four hundred and seventy one million, one hundred and three thousand
3. AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS SERVICES	19 206 000,00	Nineteen million, two hundred and six thousand
4. AGRICULTURE EDUCAT & TRAINING	70 599 000,00	Seventy million, five hundred and ninety-nine thousand
5. RESEARCH & TECH DEV SERV	81 893 000,00	Eighty one million, eight hundred and ninety three thousand
6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION	48 465 000,00	Forty eight million, four hundred and sixty five thousand
7. SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGE	43 843 000,00	Forty three million, eight hundred and forty three thousand
8. VETERINARY SERVICES	152 037 000,00	One hundred and fifty two million and thirty seven thousand
GRAND TOTAL	1229 449 000,00	ONE BILLION , TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINE MILLION , FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY NINE THOUSAND



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FINANCE PERFORMANCE

Honourable Members, the department planned to improve on its audit outcome of 2022/23; already the department has submitted draft Annual Financial Statements with a possibility of recording the lowest Irregular Expenditure in over five years.

The Post Audit Action Plans to be developed for the audit of **2022/2023** financial year will be structured such that all issues raised by AGSA form part of all strategic meetings with action holders held accountable to report on these actions. As we speak we are currently on 87% post the audit action plan.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Madam Speaker, the Department, in collaboration with the Agricultural Commodity Groups and Breeders Associations, will continue to roll-out the Mentorship Programme during the **2023/2024** financial year.

Six (6) agricultural commodities aligned to the Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) and Apiculture will be mentored across the entire province for a period of twelve months. Honourable Members, as a department we have started from small beginnings and thus far we have made strides. From about ten (10) Bee farmers, and now we standing at above the (60) sixty mark . In collaboration with Department of Agriculture, LAND Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Agricultural Research Council and the North West University, a total of 2 500 farmers will be empowered through farmer training and capacity building during the **2023 / 2024** financial year.

A total of forty five (45) young farmers participating in the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) programme are undergoing training through Kgora Farmer Training Centre as part of our collaboration with DALRRD. With regard to Designated Groups Formations, the department will strengthen its efforts to resuscitate and support the designated groups which include Women in Agriculture and Rural Development (WARD) and Youth in Agriculture and Rural Development (YARD) formations during the **2023/2024** financial year.



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Both the Local and Provincial structures of **YARD** and **WARD** have been resuscitated and will be launched and supported during June and August months, respectively. As we all know, **NAMPO** hosted its prime agricultural expo this month and Department ensured support to these two formations to become part of this prime agricultural expo.

The Department will further roll out the 3rd Cohort of Unemployed Agricultural Graduate Programme during the current financial year, while attending their last three months with the North West University doing the new venture creation course. I am also proud to announce to the house at large that 80 students of the 2nd cohort will be graduating next month. It should also be noted that 120 beneficiaries will be placed on sixty four (64) farms across the four districts in the province. The advertisement to recruit the beneficiaries is already out as we speak.

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has over the years experienced accessibility to Kgora Farmer Training Centre which is located 6km from the main road. The Farm offers training to approximately 1500 (one thousand five hundred) farmers per annum. Working with other spheres of government through the District Development Model, the Department of Public Works and Roads has funded and finally appointed contractor to construct the 2.8km of internal road from the main gate of the Kgora Farmer Training Centre and inside.

We appreciate the support by the Department of Public Works and Roads for their help to assist with our internal road and this shows that we are not working in silos. The Department is collaborating with the Independent Development Trust (IDT) in the implementation of four key agricultural projects: Springbokpan Grain Silos, Kgora Farmer Training Centre, Selame Poultry and Melton Research Farm. Contractors have been appointed, sites handed over and as we speak they are onsite.



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JOB CREATION

As part of unlocking approximately **4 000** job opportunities in agriculture and related rural economic activities to address food insecurity at household level and rising unemployment in the province, various job creation interventions will be rolled out during the **2023/2024** financial year. Producer Support and Development contribution will mostly be through CASP and Ilima Letsema. Sustainable Resource Use and Management most contributions will be through Landcare Green Jobs and Rural Development to contribute mainly through EPWP, Rural Infrastructure projects, and Farmer Training which include mentorship as well as Learnership programmes.

As for the Agricultural Support and Corporate Services, contributions will be through Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Colleges, Learnership and Internship programmes.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION & TRAINING (AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES)

Honourable Members and the House at large, Agricultural education and training happen to be the backbone and the air that gives life to our mission of food production and food security for the nation and the people of our province. In positioning these institutions and aligning them with legislative requirements, progress was achieved. However, the process has been deferred as an ongoing consultative process that all the legislative requirements must be met and be compliant with Section 21(3) of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 as amended.

Honorable Premier, in this current academic year **2023/2024**, the total number of students enrolled at Taung and Potchefstroom Agricultural Colleges is standing at 489.



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In line with priority number 3 of Educational Skills, the Taung and Potchefstroom campuses achieved and contributed to the Annual Performance Plan of the department by 87 graduates. Further on, 62 students will be conferred with Diploma in Agriculture (Irrigation) in June 2023, at Taung Agricultural College.

Honourable Premier, The memorandum of understanding between the Department and North West University is already bearing fruits through the increased skills exchange in the area of arable farming.

Motlotlegi Mmusu Kgotla, in the Financial Year **2023/2024**, the Department will continue to reposition the Colleges as Centres of Excellence in Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC SERVICES

Madam Speaker, agricultural market information is essential for commercialization of smallholder farmers, to become market-orientated entrepreneurs. This intervention will be achieved through the analyses of various agricultural marketing value chains in livestock, horticulture and field crops sub-sectors.

The challenge facing agricultural markets is to broaden the basket of agricultural commodities and value-added products that are intended for local and export markets. In addressing these challenges, the Department in collaboration with Sun City Resort hosted the Agricultural Market Access Summit for smallholder farmers for three (3) days in Bojanala District from 26th until 28th February 2023, with the solemn intent of creating a platform to link smallholder farmers to market and to showcase their produce to open market opportunities.

Honorable Members, We are pleased to announce that the Mining Development Agency (MDA) is partnering with the Department to develop our communities by training our farmers on relevant skills needed; as we speak we have the Agri hub in Marikana from Sibanye Mine, and also our farmers are developed and trained in Dr.



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Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District. In pursuit of market access for farmers and producers, we will continue to engage mining houses and the hospitality industry for the benefit of our farmers thus yielding high production.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE (SAGAP) PROGRAM

Honorable Members

In **2022/23** financial year, the Department, in collaboration with Perishable Product Export Control Board (PPECB), implemented the South African Good Agricultural Practice (SAGAP) certification program, whose main aim was to assist smallholder producers of fresh vegetable produce to access both local and international markets, by producing good quality products that comply with food safety standards. Since the inception of this programme, the department is proud to announce that fifteen (15) vegetable producers have been awarded compliance certificates, Seven (7) in 2021/22, eight (8) in **2022/2023** and six (6) are planned to be certified in **2023/2024** financial year.

VILLAGE LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS

Honorable Speaker, this financial year we will launch three (3) village livestock auctions in Ganyesa, Khunwana and Mogopa village. These village livestock auction facilities will be centrally established to benefit communities of these villages. From 2015 to date, the Department has already launched four (4) other Village Livestock Auctions in Driefontein, Taung, Tshidilamolomo and Mabeskraal.

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE & MANAGEMENT SERVICES (SRUM)

Madam Speaker, as we continue to instill hope and being inspired by the resilience of our people, we are further inspired by the words of the Nobel Laureate, Wangari Maathai when she says, as I quote;



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"We owe it to ourselves and the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath to our children a sustainable world that benefits all"

She further goes on to say, as I again quote;

"Until you dig a hole, you plant a tree, you water it and make it survive; you haven't done a thing."

Madam Speaker, young people should be positioned at the forefront of conservation, land rehabilitation and proper use of land. It is for this reason that from the programme sustainable resource use and management services, 400 learners from Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati benefited from the Junior Landcare programme in the **2022 / 2023**, and in the financial year 2023/24, 11 projects will be undertaken.

To further mitigate against disasters and advocate for climate smart practice like we did in Deelpan and Ganyesa respectively, the department will undertake at least 96 awareness campaigns throughout the province. Although disasters cannot be directly budgeted for, the department, in collaboration with the South African Weather Services (SAWS), the provincial disaster forum and other stakeholders will continue to raise awareness and provide advocacy on disaster mitigations.

The department will further establish an integrated provincial forum on climate smart agriculture, which will be comprised of stakeholders from organised agriculture, UNW, Environmental services and ARC. Conservation agricultural methods are minimally practiced within the province, especially for the subsistence and smallholder producers, and as such the department aims to work on 2 000 hectares where no-till or minimum-till practices will be implemented.

On the challenge of fallow land, through the land care programme, a total of 100 hectares will be brought back into production in the villages of Letlhogori and Koffiekraal.





Madam Speaker, Agricultural engineering services continue to be a scarce skill, and this affects planning, implementation, and monitoring of all agricultural infrastructure. The department will work together with the Department of Public Works and Roads, especially for the implementation of Colleges infrastructure projects. The department will continue to solicit professional engineering support from the national department.

During our 2022/2023 tabling of our speech we did say we will engage with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), in assigning the mentor for our candidate engineers and engineering technician. Although things are moving on snail pace, but we will not tire until we have our fully fledged Departmental engineers through the help of ECSA.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Honourable Members and the August House at large, in its endeavour to practice partnerships towards smallholder commercialisation programme, the department partnered with the KMF Feedlot & Abattoir and provided funding for input costs during the **2022/2023** financial year. Project will be completed during this financial year and earmarked for launching later in the year.

RED MEAT COMMODITY

Honorable Members, as part of our contribution towards the red meat industry, during the 2022/23 financial year, the department targeted to support 150 red meat commodity farmers and total of 173 were successfully provided with tangible support. For the 2023/24 financial year, the department has allocated 40% of its CASP on & off-farm infrastructure budget towards the Red Meat production, targeting a minimum of 373 beneficiaries.

The major deliverables of this programme comprise of livestock water provisioning, livestock handling facilities and erection of fence wherein we target communal areas and state-owned farms.



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This aims to improve production levels, improve infrastructure such as fencing, handling facilities for disease management, improving access to formal markets using auctions as well as improving access to water. Lefapha le tšile go ema ka dinao go leka go oketsa bagaetsho ba eleng BoRra di Fantisi/Mmaraka wa diphologolo, seno e le go leka go tsenelela le go ba babya mo maemong a tla dirang gore ba bone kgolo mo setheong seno sa go rekisa diphologolo go bagaetsho. Ga jaana mo ngwageng ono wa dichelete re tšile go thus aba le bane, re ba tataise le go ba rotloetsa go emelana le dikgwetlho tsa mmaraka wa diphologolo.

CROP PRODUCTION

Madam Speaker, at the same time, climate change has affected rain patterns whereby normal summer rainfalls have been reduced to low-flooding and extreme temperatures, resulting in planting delays and low production, due to shortened cropping season.

Despite this challenge, 10 124ha of hectares were planted for food production against a total of 11 000ha that were planned for **2022/2023**. In light of the above-stated conditions, the department has planned to put into production a total of 11 000 hectares across the four districts during 2023/24 financial year and we aim to support farmers through production inputs such as diesel, seeds, fertilizers and agro-chemicals and machinery.

Honourable Members, The water rights quota is a stone in the shoe for our famers, upon entering the rabbit hole we realise that our farmers production rate is affected by the limitation for hectors planted, now I can report that there's is an on-going engagements with the Department of water to increase the water quota for our farmers, to ensure efficiency and high yields come production time.

Honourable Members, the department together with the North West University Mahikeng Campus hosted the highly pitched Cannabis Lekgotla. I am glad to announce to the house that resolutions were undertaken and thus far progress has been reported.





We have trained 22 hemp farmers, and two of those farmers were supported in the previous financial year, part of the support we gave was drilling, sighting and equipping of bore holes, and in the current financial we will be supporting one hemp farmer as well. We call upon SAPHRA to understand and re-look at the licencing requirements in order for our people to be able to be fully operational without a long process.

HOUSEHOLDS FOOD SECURITY

Madam Speaker and the House at large, in its efforts to contribute towards addressing triple challenges of poverty, as identified in the NDP, our provincial ranking improved from No.9 to No.8 nationally, in the Household Food Security listing, according to the last General Household Survey [GHS] **2019/2020**.

The department embarked on food security intervention programme by providing agricultural food production packages to food insecure households. The department reached more households through food and nutrition security programme for backyard production.

DALRRD [RLCC / NW-PSSC]

The North West Regional Land Claims Commission has committed to continue processing and settling old order claims and ensures that Claimant Communities are empowered through partnership with interested investors and government departments.

Honourable Members, the Bakwena Ba Mogopa from Ventersdorp have successfully reclaimed their land and finally it was approved. The village has mostly been using livestock both large and small under natural pastures and crop production. The Department will during this fiscal year fund the Mogopa trust with the erection of the auction pans and 100 hectares will be utilised for the local greens project.



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The department has also been on the ground and helped Rethabiseng Poultry Project and Mosweu green feed project for their sheep production in Mogopa Village.

Honourable Members, we are also glad to announce that 7 (seven) portions of the Farm Doornkop benefited, 110 households constituting 519 beneficiaries. The community were further assisted with farming equipments and livestock Breeding Stock comprising of 126 cattle including six bulls . The Department further handed over more than 18 title deeds to the individual plot owners who were dispossessed of their land rights in their individual capacity.

ADMINISTRATION

Honorable Members, the Department will continue to empower and build capacity amongst its ranks, with a view to empower officials with competencies for effective service delivery. Officials with disabilities at all levels and women will be prioritized for relevant training and skills development interventions.

Senior Management will also be catered for in this financial year **2023/24** with crucial capacity-building interventions that include Government Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Executive Management, and Project Khaedu including the field assignment for Senior Management Deployment.

Officials in middle management will be provided with training and skills development in arrears that includes Project and Programme Management, Policy Development and Management and lastly Monitoring and Evaluation.



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CONCLUSION

May I take this time to thank my political home, the African National Congress for the wisdom and vision they instill in all of us to serve our people; my sincere gratitude to the Legislature Portfolio Committee on its oversight and support role; The honorable Premier and my colleagues in the Executive Committee continue to be a much-needed bedrock upon which we rely on; the ever dedicated employees of the department and our stakeholders are an inspiration which drives one to keep dreaming of a better future for our people and our sector.

I want to thank the Provincial Treasury MEC, Honorable Motlalepule Rosho and Suprident General Ndlela Kunene for their continued support.

I also acknowledge the important role which my husband, Mr. Patrick Mohono, and my lovely children namely Tshepiso, Koketso, Munaka, Pana, Maso and my little Princess continue to play as a much-needed support structure on my work and my well-being.

Again I am thankful to my office staffers who continue to toil day in and day out. To my mother and my siblings, the journey started a while back and you have never disappointed in carrying the luggage for me when I needed all of you, I am very thankful once more. I also want to thank the farming community for their continued support and patience.

Above all it would not have been possible if you, The Lord God my father, was not on my side.

Modimo Rraetsho ga kena mantswe a le mantsi a go go rorisa le go go boka, mme ka re tswelala go nkgoga mo tseleng eno.

Ke a leboga - I thank you!

MEC Desbo Mohono

North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT NORTH WEST PROVINCE



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