



Produced by Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

June 2023 | SPECIAL ISSUE.2



YOUTH

SPECIAL EDITION

TOP NEWS

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Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



NARYSEC GIVES RURAL YOUTH TOOLS TO BETTER THEIR LIVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Thoko Didiza observing the pass out parade.



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Thoko Didiza presided over the NARYSEC pass out parade in Nigel.

Rony Moremi

President Cyril Ramaphosa told the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) graduates that they have been given the tools to better their lives and to bring change in their communities. The president was speaking at the NARYSEC Pass Out Parade on 12 July at Dunnottar Military Base in Nigel. He was accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ms Thoko Didiza and her deputies, Mr Mcebisi Skwatsha and Ms Zoleka Capa. The Pass Out Parade is a ceremonial completion of the NARYSEC Programme, which involves skills and character building.

As testimony to the president's message, one of the graduates, Mcmillan Snyders said, "I have attended two universities, but the experience I gained in the NARYSEC programme is more than I learned at both universities. I also learned isiZulu, which I would

not have learned if I did not participate in the programme. It is a norm that young people go to university first and they look down on this programme because it is particularly for rural youth. I will encourage other young people to participate in the NARYSEC intake." Mcmillan Snyders is from the Matzikama Local Municipality in Vredendal, Western Cape, and he also won an award for the Best Academic Participant. He shares this award with Mmabatho Cathrine Ramadile from Northern Cape.

Other awards presented to top achievers were the Minister Special Award, Most Disciplined Participant Award, Neatest Participant Award, Most Improved Participant Award, Best Drill Participant Award, Fittest Participant Award, Best Overall Participant Award and Best Instructor Award.

PEO (THE SEED) is the newsletter of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development • Private Bag X250, PRETORIA 0001.

It is published by the Chief Directorate: Strategic Communication • Private Bag X144, PRETORIA 0001.

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Cont.

The Minister Special Award was received by Lufuno Khakhu and Khwatelani Mudau, both from Limpopo. The Most Disciplined Participant Award went to Mbali Faith Manjwa from KwaZulu-Natal and Dudley Renald Fielding from Northern Cape. Ouma Solini Kekana from Limpopo and Gareth Jayde Stanfliet from Western Cape received the Neatest Participant Award. Participants who received the Most Improved Participant Award were Thozama Sylvia Mphafa from North West and Thabani Nene from KwaZulu-Natal. The Best Drill Participant Award was given to Jerome Dunville Konyn from Northern Cape. The Fittest Participant Award was shared by Omphile Troy Moncho and Thamsanqa Michael Bayo, both from Northern Cape. Godfrey Witbooi, from Northern Cape, won the Best Overall Participant Award and the Best Instructor Award went to Gideon Peter Venter from the Department of Defence.

NARYSEC is the youth skills development programme of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD); it forms part of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme and the District Development Model.

It was established in 2010 with the aim of building the capacity of rural youth through various skills development and training. Re-



Thamsanqa Michael Bayo received the Fittest Male Participant Award.

cruits come from different districts and municipalities across all nine provinces. They are trained in critical skills development programmes such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, construction and engineering, energy and water, education and training, health, safety and security, information technology and media, mining and quarrying and transport, storage and communication. The programme has thus far trained 17 537 youth in all nine provinces.

The Youth Leadership Development Programme Training was provided by the DALRRD in partnership with the Department of Defence, the National School of Government, National Youth Development Agency and the Road Traffic Management Corporation.

The president further encouraged the graduates to use what they have learned in the programme to work with government and social partners to alleviate poverty, unemployment, inequality and underdevelopment. He also called on business to support rural economic development by hiring graduates and assisting them to start their own businesses.

“I have attended two universities, but the experience I gained in the NARYSEC programme is more than I learned at both universities. I also learned isiZulu, which I would not have learned if I did not participate in the programme. It is a norm that young people go to university first and they look down on this programme because it is particularly for rural youth. I will encourage other young people to participate in the NARYSEC intake.”

YOUNG FARMER RECEIVES LAND THROUGH LAND REFORM PROGRAMME



Ms Annemarie and Mr Leon Van Rensburg handover the farm key to Mr Lesetja Lamola.

Pfumelani Tsedu

In celebration of Youth Month, the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, through its Strategic Land Acquisition Programme, handed over a farm to 34-year-old Mr Lesetja Hendrick Lamola. He received a 700-hectare farm on a 30-year lease at an event held in Rosendal and Schaapkraal farm situated in Lephale Municipality, Waterberg District on 30 June 2023.

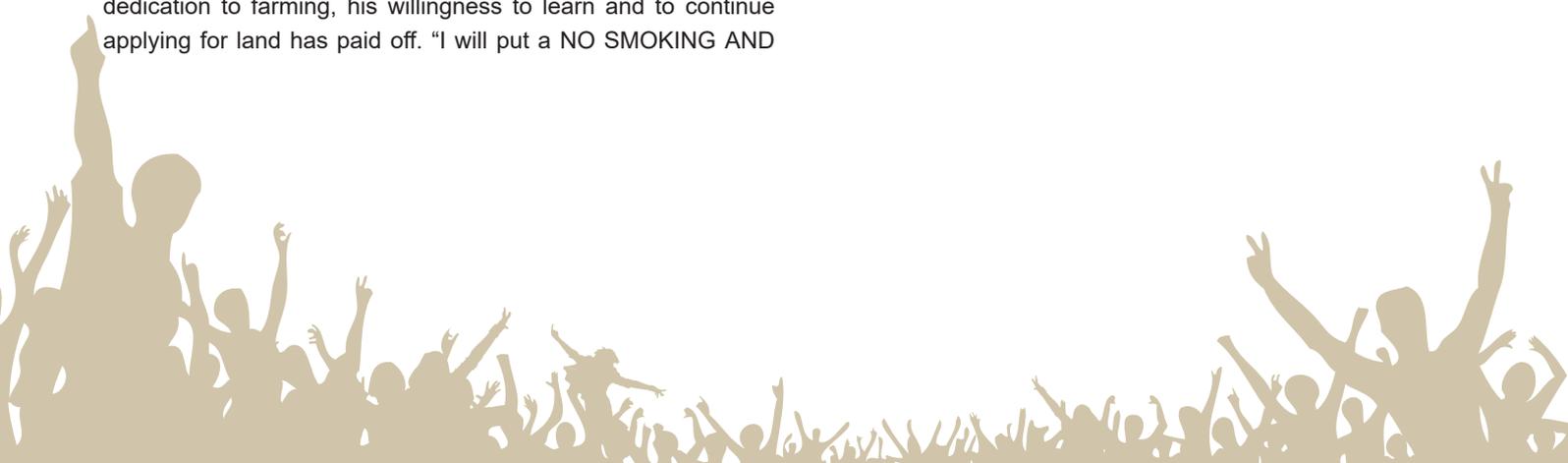
Lamola, an information technology graduate, was previously farming on communal land at Rosenkrantz Village in the Blouberg Local Municipality. He is engaged in livestock farming and currently has 123 cattle that were verified by representatives of the Waterberg District Beneficiary Selection Committee (DBSC) on 30 March 2023. The cattle were all branded with his own landmark and he currently employs five permanent workers.

Like many others, Lamola applied for the farm when it was advertised by the department on various radio stations and on its website in February 2023, and this time he was successful. According to Lamola, he started applying for a farm in 2014 without success. However, he did not despair and he now sees that his dedication to farming, his willingness to learn and to continue applying for land has paid off. "I will put a NO SMOKING AND

DRINKING sign at the gate because I do not drink nor smoke," he said jokingly and promised to hit the ground running once his cattle arrive from Rosenkrantz Village.

The property is divided into three camps. Some of the infrastructure includes drinking troughs; a cattle kraal with a loading facility and neck clamp; goat and sheep kraals; and several boreholes. It also has a farmhouse, storeroom, sheds, five workers' houses, three wooden cottages with ablution facilities, and a swimming pool. It is game fenced and the veld is in a good condition while the farm has high potential for cattle and small stock production. Establishment of planted pastures will assist the farmer with feed supplement and increasing the carrying capacity of the farm.

The handover of the property was attended by officials of the Limpopo Provincial Shared Services Centre, Waterberg District and Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. The Waterberg District Manager, Mr Mfuywa, expressed his happiness and gratitude for the opportunity that has been given to a young farmer and advised him to work hard and establish good relations and interactions with neighbouring farmers.



YOUNG VHEMBE FARMER USES PRESIDENTIAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS TO BOOST HER BUSINESS

Mercia Smith



“Farming is not easy, farmers face a lot of challenges such as climate change and uncontrolled weather conditions,”

Masindi standing in front of some of the implements she uses on the farm.

Farming has captured the heart of a young, 27-year-old Ms Masindi Khubana in the Vhembe region, Limpopo. Ms Khubana started farming in 2020. The farm is located at Mpandoni-Tshaulu Village in the Vhembe District Municipality of Limpopo. The enterprise focuses on the production of good quality fresh crops, mainly green peppers, mustard, cabbages, tomatoes, and chillies. The business is named Mshindi which is a Kenyan word for Winter.

Masindi also benefited from the Presidential Empowerment Stimulus Initiative (PES), which helped her to maintain her farm. She used the vouchers to buy fertilisers and implements to help with the weeding. Previously all weeding was done by hand, and the manual labour costs her money and took a lot of time.

“Farming is not easy, farmers face a lot of challenges such as climate change and uncontrolled weather conditions,” says Ms Masindi Khubana. Ms Khubana holds a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Venda. After graduating, she struggled to find an internship, or a job and she had to do something to escape becoming part of the statistics of young graduates who loiter the streets.

She remembered the words of one of her professors at university, “Prof. PK Chauke used to say to us that if you are doing

agriculture, you do not have to wait for someone to employ you, you can start your own business and employ yourself. I started Mshindi as a way to fight unemployment and to be a productive member of society,” said Masindi.

Besides farming, Ms Khubana is currently employed in the retail industry by the Mr Price Group. In 2021, she was part of an online platform called SPESRES, which offers youths free study courses. She did a short course, called New Venture Creation which was about entrepreneurship. She later entered a pitching competition wherein she won R20 000. This helped her with acquiring capital and finance for her farming business.

The business started to operate in 2020 and was formally registered in 2021. She was lucky enough to inherit family land from her father, which is being passed from generation to generation. The farm is 4 ha big, and she is currently negotiating with the local tribal office for a bigger land.

She has two years farming experience which she acquired from being part of the cooperative called Green Valley Farming. She currently boosts seven employees, one permanent and six seasonal. Depending on the commodity, she harvests up to 50 tons in a harvest cycle. The target market is the surrounding members of the community, street vendors and supermarkets.

Farming is not easy, and Masindi recently suffered a setback on her production due to loss caused by the rain. She lost all the tomato crops she had planted at the beginning of that year. This was a hard blow as she is a subcontractor for a farmer in Limpopo, Mr Aubrey Nethengwe. He supplies tomatoes to big food processing companies such as Rhodes Food Group. However, she is currently working on recovering from the loss by planting low maintenance crops such as beetroot.

Masindi is grateful for the assistance given by government. Extension officers from local government offices assists with information and any farming-related problems. Her advice to fellow farmers and unemployed graduates is: “in Tshivenda they say ‘Lupfumo lu mavuni’, meaning wealth is in the soil, so let us work the soil.”



Green peppers are sold to nearby supermarkets and small shops.

MINISTER AND PREMIER HAND OVER MARAPYANE BAKGATLA GRAIN PROJECT



Minister Didiza, Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane, and MEC Shiba handed over farming implements in Marapyane.



Minister Didiza and Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane during the handing over of a grain project in Marapyane.

Samuel Kgatla

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Thoko Didiza, and the Mpumalanga Premier, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane officially handed over the Marapyane Bakgatla Grain Project to the Bakgatla community in Marapyane on 19 June 2023.

The 145 ha-sized cooperative has created 40 permanent jobs for youth and women and is expected to create more employment in the Dr JS Moroka Municipality. The grain project is a community initiative supported by DALRRD and the provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA).

The project also produces maize and sunflower, now also venturing into vegetable production in a climate-smart way. The project forms part of the greening of Mpumalanga owing to its agro-ecological zones and climatic conditions. Prior to the handover, the minister and premier officially opened the Marapyane Bakgatla Cooperative and Raks Milling. The project has successfully created a value chain for farm output, with local nearby factories like Raks Milling, VKB Silos Settlers, NTK, Randagri Pty Ltd and Russell Stone Protein in Seabe Village and Bronkhorstspuit becoming target markets.

DALRRD and DARDLEA have supported the project with infrastructure development, production inputs, mechanisation support, training, extension and advisory support, and market linkages. The climatic condition in Marapyane is mainly suitable for grain crops such as sunflower, sorghum and maize.

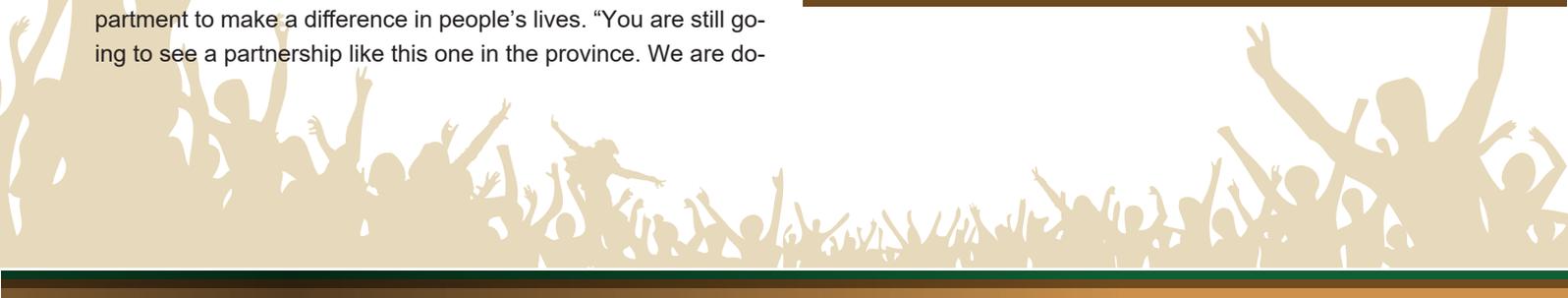
Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane said that as provincial government, they were committed to working with Minister Didiza and her department to make a difference in people's lives. "You are still going to see a partnership like this one in the province. We are do-

ing more for our people, and we have various initiatives that will create employment opportunities for the unemployed," she said.

Minister Didiza said that they were prepared to work with the chiefs to make sure that there is food security in rural areas. She added that it gave her great pleasure to see young people being involved in the agricultural sector. "We want to work with the chiefs to make sure that the land is fully exploited. I am happy the chiefs are always prepared to offer land to their people. What you are seeing today is part of fighting hunger and this is done through the collaboration of spheres of government and the chiefs. This partnership has created jobs, and this is what makes us happy as government. We want to see the lives of unemployed people changing," she said.



Minister Didiza and Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane during the launch of Bokgatla Grain Project in Marapyane.



AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARY AWARDS FOR 2024

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) intends to award comprehensive bursaries to qualifying applicants pursuing and/or intending to further their studies in identified careers in the agriculture, land reform and rural development sector for the 2024 academic year. The bursary will cover tuition, accommodation, books, meals and monthly allowance. The bursary awards target the previously disadvantaged and impoverished persons from poverty-stricken and rural communities.

Closing date for all applications: 31 October 2023

People with disabilities are encouraged to apply. 

Fields of study	Minimum requirements (National Senior Certificate)	Enquiries
B.Sc. Bioresource Engineering (Agricultural Engineering) Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.Sc.)	Mathematics and Physical Science: 6 (70–79)	Mr Tshiano Khangala Tel.: 012 319 7015
B.Sc. Animal Science B.Sc. Entomology B.Sc. Food Science B.Sc. Pasture Science B.Sc. Plant Pathology B.Sc. Soil Science/ Agronomy B.Sc. Viticulture and Oenology	Mathematics and Physical Science 5 (60–69)	Mr Vusimuzi Mngomezulu Tel.: 012 319 7923
National Diploma: Food Technology	Mathematics and Physical Science 4 (50–59)	
B.Sc. Land Surveying/Geomatics B.Sc. Town/Urban and Regional Planning B.Sc./BA Geo-Informatics/Geographic Information Science	Mathematics and Physical Science/Geography 5 (60–69)	Ms Nozipho Mtshali Tel.: 012 312 8339 Cell: 083 708 9650
National Diploma/B Degree in Geomatics/Land Surveying/GIS National Diploma/B Degree in Town/Urban and Regional Planning	Mathematics and Physical Science: 4 (50–59)	Mr Emmanuel Molefe Tel.: 012 312 8337 Cell: 082 827 6245
Postgraduate studies (Adv Dip/B.Tech, B.Sc. Hons in TRP/JRP & GIS, M.Sc., D.Tech. and Ph.D.) in Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development priority research projects.		

NOTES

- Applicants must be South African citizens.
- Applicants must complete the relevant bursary application forms available from the website address: www.dalrrd.gov.za (Click on vacancies).
- Applicants who apply for fields of study that are not listed above will not be considered.
- Please note that communication will be limited to successful applicants only. If you have not received any communication from the department within **14 days after the release of Grade 12 results** and after the National Bursary Committee has finalised the selection process, consider your application unsuccessful.
- The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development reserves the right to determine the total number of bursary allocations for the academic year based on the total budget available.
- No late application forms will be considered.
- Applicants who are not in possession of their university acceptance letter or final results can submit their application while waiting for the said documents.
- All completed bursary application forms together with certified copies of ID and certificates/performance results should be sent to **ONLY ONE** of the following addresses:

Postal address	Physical address
The Director Sector Education and Training Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Private Bag X250 PRETORIA, 0001	Agriculture Place 20 Steve Biko (Former Beatrix) Street Arcadia, Pretoria 0002

Email: Externalbursaries@dalrrd.gov.za