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YOUTH

SPECIAL EDITION

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agriculture, land reform & rural development

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



YOUNG FEMALE FARMER'S SIGHTS SET ON COMMERCIAL FARMING



Dintle and a group of the Tshwane University of Technology's Animal Science students who are doing practical training at the poultry project.



Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment built a chicken house that caters for 10,000 chickens per cycle.

Mphahlela Rammutla

“I was assisted by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE). I am an end product of what a young black farmer should be in South Africa.”

These were the words of a jubilant young poultry farmer, Dintle Matlala of Siphesihle Family Farm in Wolmansdaal, Gauteng.

The 23-year-old Dintle represents a picture of a typical “Tintswalo”—the child of Democracy that President Cyril Ramaphosa painted during his State of Nation Address (SONA) earlier this year.

President Cyril Ramaphosa used his SONA to outline how government has impacted the lives of ordinary young people over the past three decades of democracy.

Dintle says her interest in farming with chickens started when she was just seven years old. She remembers how often her

mother would wake her up in the middle of the night during the rainy season to help her save the chicks by moving them from a dilapidated structure. “Under the guidance of my mother, who taught me everything, from identifying chicken diseases, how to prepare a coop, to how to work on production, evoked love for poultry farming.”

Dintle was recently appointed as Director of Raad Trading Enterprise (PTY) LTD, a young-black-woman owned company that was established in 2006 by her mother, Trudy Nthathe.

“In 2006, mom bought a farm and built a shack. Coming from the construction field, she took all the money she ever made from construction and invested it in agriculture, unfortunately we had more deaths, our chickens died in numbers at many different times. The situation was heart-breaking,” recalls Dintle.

“Poultry taught me that every cent counts, every small growth contributes to a larger picture,” she emphasised.

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Cont.

Dintle's knowledge and passion for poultry farming has drawn a lot of attention from other stakeholders such as GDARDE, which was motivated by her work to expand her business.

The GDARDE has come to the rescue and built infrastructure that caters for 10,000 chickens per cycle, with each house catering for 2,500 chickens as opposed to the previous houses that catered for 4,000 chickens per cycle.

"Eventually we noticed low mortality and realised that we were not bad farmers, we just lacked proper infrastructure. The department came and got to know us, it built four coops with a capacity of 10,000 chickens, that is how we increased the production. The money generated in poultry helped us enter into the export and import industry. We export chickens, which increased the company revenue to about 70%. We even went on to selling animal feeds, particularly broiler feed," said the jubilant farmer.

GDARDE also provided a mobile abattoir, which allowed Dintle to sell slaughtered and live chickens of Ross Breed to

"I want to see myself become a commercial farmer. I want to have 750,000 chickens, but I do not want to stop there, I want to get a new farm and commercialise it,"



Dintle Matlala of Siphesihle farm in her mobile abattoir that was given by the department.



Dintle also receives support from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

some abattoirs, hotels in Mpumalanga, vendors and small supermarkets.

The young female farmer has big dreams and an ambition to break out of her own boundaries of being an emerging farmer. Dintle has given herself six years to reach the milestone of 750,000 chickens per cycle. "I want to see myself become a commercial farmer. I want to have 750,000 chickens, but I do not want to stop there, I want to get a new farm and commercialise it," she shares.

Siphesihle Family Farming employs 30 people and young students who are studying Animal Health at the Tshwane University of Technology. Matlala said that the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has been helpful in providing veterinary services, extension officers and even finding markets for their produce!

SMANGELE'S STORY: JOURNEY FROM GRIEF TO EMERGING POULTRY FARMER

Matsepo Malatswane



Youth Leadership Development Programme. As soon as she completed the programme at the SA Army, Smangele made her way to Letaba TVET College to study and train in poultry farming for 12 months, starting from January 2023.

Upon completion of the poultry training at TVET college, Smangele was funded by the college with R2,000 to start up her Sma Connect poultry farming. The start-up fund from the college assisted her in purchasing 100 chicks at once, something that she would not have done without the fund. Her background came in handy too. Smangele has always been business minded. Before NARYSEC, she would sell a variety of products and food at the clinic to make ends meet.

When asked about the key lessons she learned, she mentioned that one of the lessons she got from her training was to start small and work into growing big. Owing to loadshedding she is currently left with 97 chicks. She has also made means to get her hands on a small solar panel system, to eliminate the challenges of electricity, as her 97 chicks must be under the light and warm at all times.

For her business to grow, she is looking into attending further training on poultry as she is looking into venturing into a bigger space for her chickens. In the meantime, her aim is to sell broilers and save for layers, which will be able to accelerate her income. Her objective is to save the profit she would be making from the business for the purpose of expanding her poultry farm.

NARYSEC not only provides character building programmes and soft and hard skills training, as well as dispatch the youth to rural areas to undertake various rural infrastructure and other development projects, it transforms youth from rural areas from being job seekers to being job creators, breaking the vicious cycle of social grants dependency.

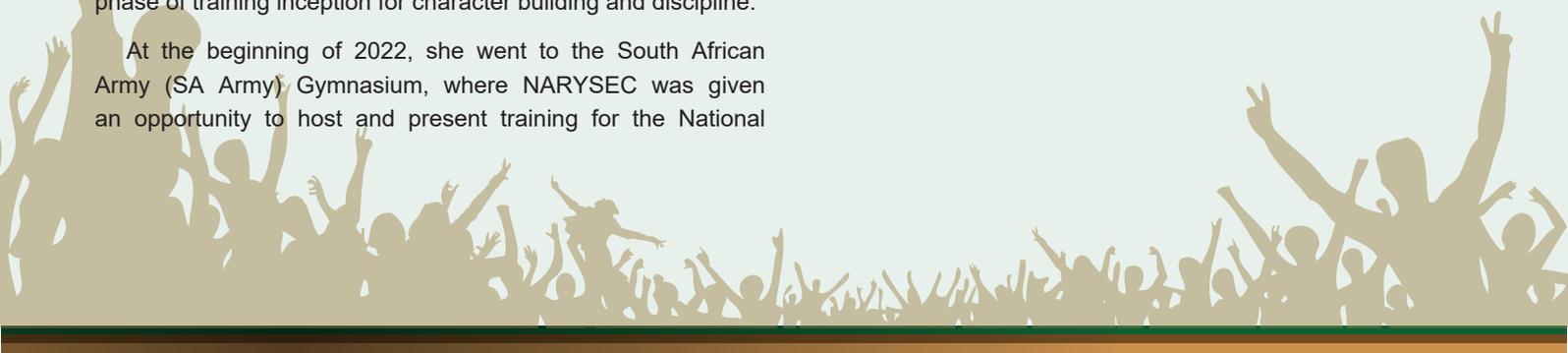
Smangele encouraged other youth to apply for the programme and expressed her gratitude for being given an opportunity to participate in the programme. "I have learnt so much from the programme. I am so grateful for everything I have learnt; I will use the skills I have learnt to improve my life and maybe empower those around me," she said. She wittingly concluded that, "I am NARYSEC, NARYSEC is me."

“ I have learnt so much from the programme. I am so grateful for everything I have learnt; I will use the skills I have learnt to improve my life and maybe empower those around me,” she said. She wittingly concluded that, “I am NARYSEC, NARYSEC is me.”

36-year-old Smangele Mahlangu, a National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme participant from Sokhulumu in Bronkhorstspuit, admits that one of the impetus for applying for the programme was finding an outlet for grieving the loss of her family members. Ms Mahlangu lost five of her siblings to a fatal car accident.

They say everything happens for a reason. In her adversity was birthed the desire to take up the opportunity to partake in the NARYSEC Programme when she saw the advertisement around her community. She gave it a chance and was fortunately selected to partake in the programme. She admits that the programme has not only strengthened her during the most difficult grieving time but has also helped in strengthening her character. Her NARYSEC journey started in 2022, with the first phase of training inception for character building and discipline.

At the beginning of 2022, she went to the South African Army (SA Army) Gymnasium, where NARYSEC was given an opportunity to host and present training for the National



NARYSEC CREATING A BIG DENT IN EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

Themba Hleko



Dieketseng Padi received a certificate in Wholesale and Retail Operations Supervision from NARYSEC Programme.

After joining the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme in 2019, Dieketseng Padi exited the programme armed with a certificate in Wholesale and Retail Operations Supervision.

Now employed at a Clicks outlet in Riverside Boulevard, Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng, Dieketseng said that undergoing different phases of NARYSEC has not only helped her gain a qualification, but has shaped her character in a way that she can handle challenges at her workplace. "This experience assisted me to confidently deliver service excellence through efficient customer service, point of sale, operational activities and merchandising in store that leads to a positive customer experience," she indicated.

"You see, earlier in the programme before we were taken to colleges, we had to participate in the Youth Leadership Development Programme (YLDP)," she recalled. YLDP is the first phase of the NARYSEC Programme that is offered in partnership with the Department of Defence. "During the YLDP phase, we were taught how to be disciplined participants and we further engaged in physical, leadership and life skills trainings," she indicated. Dieketseng further said that she could use the skills acquired during the YLDP phase to deal with difficult customers in a more respectable and disciplined way at the pharmacy where she is currently employed.

Dieketseng was part of a cohort of more than 50 NARYSEC participants who acquired certificates during the skills development training phase where they obtained a qualification in Wholesale and Retail Operations at Goldfields TVET College in 2023. The course was offered in partnership with the Clicks Group. The study matter of the course entailed ordering stock, receiving, dispatching, stock control, cash control, sales and marketing, and displaying.

NARYSEC recruits with a purpose in that most participants who enroll for the programme are guaranteed jobs after completing

training. Skills development training is at the heart of training. During this phase, the programme dispatches participants to undergo different skills training programmes that are in short supply in different industries and after completing training, participants stand a good chance of getting employment.

NARYSEC implements accredited occupational and/or artisanal programmes and non-accredited skills programmes. To mention a few, these include training in Road Traffic Control, Basic Pharmacist Assistant, Agriculture, Motor Mechanic, Solar Installation, Information Technology, Security Services, Plant Production, Wholesale and Retail.

During this phase, participants start to earn a monthly stipend, which assists them to cover the cost of living during skills training. All participants are assisted to acquire driver's licences and undergo venture creation training to widen their horizons if they want to start a business.

What is also a compulsory mainstay in the NARYSEC Programme is community service. The objective of community service is to offer the youth an opportunity to make tangible contributions in their communities. During this phase, participants engage in various community outreach projects to contribute 100 hours of their time to outreach programmes within their communities. With the help of NARYSEC coordinators, the youth formulate social and civic participation plans that are tailored to help their communities. This instils principles and values that are beneficial not only to them, but to the community at large. During this phase Dieketseng conducted her community service where she volunteered as a teacher assistant at a local school in Bophelong Township in Vanderbijlpark. "After completing my term there at a school, I felt good about myself because I was able to give back to the community," she said.

NARYSEC empowers participants not only to find employment, but to play a meaningful role in the economic development of the country. This is achieved by empowering participants to either find employment or engage in entrepreneurial activities. This bodes well for the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's mission of promoting access to opportunities for youth, women and other vulnerable groups. At the back of high youth unemployment numbers in the country, the department, through NARYSEC, is making strides in providing much-needed boost to the youth.

During the exit phase, which is the last phase of the programme, participants are prepared to enter the real world through exit opportunities that put them in good stead when pursuing entrepreneurship, career development, as well as furthering their studies.

PLAS PROGRAMME BENEFITS A 20-YEAR-OLD YOUTH WITH 944 HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND



The 944 ha farm was acquired by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development from the Claassens family.

Pfumelani Tsedu

Muple Portia Morudu, a 20-year-old female farmer from the Steilloop Village in Limpopo who bagged herself a 30-year lease for a 944-hectare farm in Blouberg Local Municipality, Capricorn District, is grateful to the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) for awarding her the farm.

The property, which was acquired by the DALRRD from the Claassens family through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) earlier this year, is suitable for livestock and crop farming.

After a thorough beneficiary selection process, the department approved the allocation of the property to Ms Morudu, and the property was thus officially handed over to the delighted land reform beneficiary on 18 April 2024, fittingly during Freedom Month.

Portia, who is a livestock farmer, used to farm full-time on a leased private property in Lephalale. She is engaged in cattle farming and currently has 88 cattle. It was in 2018 when she inherited cattle from her grandfather, and she never looked back despite not having formal training in agriculture. She, however, has experience in farming, thanks to her upbringing and various informal training sessions, including in government veterinary services. She currently sells her stock at livestock auctions and employs four permanent staff members. "The department has made a good choice with the selection of the beneficiary for this farm as there is already sweat of her family on this farm, and she has a very strong support system," the former owner of the farm Mr Claassens said during the handover event. His advice to her was that she must not try and do everything on her own. He added that she must ask those who have been in the game before and build good and strong relations with her neighbours

who will always be willing to assist her in times of need. "As the previous farm owners, my wife and I stand ready to assist you and we are only a phone call away," assured Mr Claassens.

In her acceptance speech, Ms Morudu thanked the department for the great opportunity and promised not to let the department down. "I will use this opportunity in the best way possible. I will ask for help where needed," said Ms Morudu. She further thanked everyone who had assisted her, especially her grandfather. She said the department was more than welcome to keep an eye on her and that she would demonstrate her gratitude for this opportunity through hard work, commitment, and dedication. She thanked the Claassens for keeping the farm in good condition up to the very end, adding that it will make it easy for her to just get on with the job of farming.



The Claassens handing over the farm keys to Ms Portia Morudu, flanked by DALRRD officials Mr Michael Buys on the far left the director of Capricorn District Ms Samkele Mtshweni second from right and Mr Mashaba Letsoalo far right.

KAGISHO THUPI INTENDS TO CLAIM A HUGE SHARE OF TOMBSTONES SUPPLY



Kagisho and his employees start the tombstone process from scratch by designing customised tomb stones and erecting at the cemetery.



Kagisho and his employees demonstrating how they design the tombstones.

Matsepo Malatswane

Kagisho Thupi, a 31-year-old granite crafter from Majaneng in Hammanskraal, learned about the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) Programme from the local newspapers and radios and then decided to give it a try in 2012. He started the training at 3 South African Infantry Battalion (3 SAI), in Kimberly, Northern Cape, for character building and discipline training. Subsequently, he went to Tshwane North Technical and Vocational Education and Training College in Themba, Hammanskraal and completed a business administration level 4 course.

He used the NARYSEC monthly stipend to buy start-up tools, which would then assist in the family business of granite crafting. In 2014, after the business administration course from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) provided by NARYSEC, which took a period of seven months to complete, he joined his father in the family business in the tombstone industry.

His father equipped him with the skills required for the job in two weeks, but sadly passed on afterwards. Armed with two weeks of training for the business, he soldiered on with the family legacy and vision.

Kagisho, a granite crafter, starts the tombstone process literally from scratch; from designing, customised designing and erection at the cemetery. The business is located on a very busy main road in Majeneng, which puts him at a more advantaged position for his business. He was fortunate enough to gain clientele in a short space of time, which pushed him to move from running a business from his family home to him acquiring his own stand where he currently operates.

Kagisho encourages the youth to participate in the NARYSEC Programme to learn crucial skills and life's purpose, stay away from the streets to develop broader views about life and hone different life

skills and talents. "I am a businessperson because of NARYSEC," said Kagisho.

His future plans are to see his business going industrial and employing more people. Currently Kagisho is inundated with curriculum vitae and would like to grow his business and employ more people. Securing the business site along a busy road and getting further business is gradually assisting him to achieve the growth vision. His long-term vision is to gradually migrate towards supplying funeral parlours and increase employment from six people to as many as possible.

"I am a businessperson because of NARYSEC," said Kagisho.



Kagisho Thupi granite tombstones crafter from Majaneng in Hammanskraal.

NARYSEC YOUTH SEES A BRIGHT FUTURE AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ACCREDITED SECURITY TRAINING COURSE



Ms Mbali Madlala second from the left in the bottom row with her fellow participants.



NARYSEC participants broke into an impromptu song and dance with their coordinators after receiving their Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) certificates.



Top achiever Mbali Madlala receiving her certificate from Director Narysec Skills Implementation Ms Georgina Gantana and CEO of Bidvest Protea Coin Mr Costa Diavastos.

Jabulani Malinga

“ I am happy to have conquered my fears, stress and being overwhelmed throughout the training process and to have achieved what I had set out to when I arrived here.” These were the words of Ms Mbali Madlala, a National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) participant who was conferred with the overall top achiever award during the NARYSEC pass-out parade at Gijima Training Academy at Wallmansthal outside Pretoria.

Ms Madlala is one of the 225 NARYSEC participants who successfully completed the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) Grade C security training that was conducted by Bidvest Protea Coin as part of a skills development partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. She said that she was taken aback when her name was called as the overall top achiever. “I feel so happy because I was not expecting this. I am so proud of myself,” she said.

The PSIRA Grade C qualification is an intermediate level in the PSIRA grading system that indicates a higher level of training and competency. An individual who holds the qualification has undergone a more extensive training programme that covers a wide range of security-related topics that include advanced security protocols and procedures, handling of security incidents and emergencies, supervisory skills and team management, legal aspects, and ethics in security operations.

Addressing the participants at the ceremony, Ms Georgina Gantana, Director: NARYSEC Project Implementation shared the joy of Ms Madlala and all the participants who completed the rigorous training programme. She said that the department was proud of them for making it that far despite the demanding circumstances. “I want you to give yourselves a round of applause for persevering when at times you probably wanted to quit, but you stayed and remained focused, well done. It was not easy, but it was worth it,” she said.

Ms Gantana also encouraged the participants to go out there and conquer the world using the skills and knowledge they had attained from all the training programmes they had been exposed to. “Always carry with you the NARYSEC pledge that you took and be the agents of change in your communities and remember that it is not about what this country will do for you, but what you will give back to it. Ahead of you lies years of service that will ensure our resources and places of work are safe and people feel protected,” she concluded.



Ms Mbali Madlala with her top achiever certificate and Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) certificate.