



MINISTER  
AGRICULTURE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

11 MARCH 2026

### MINISTER STEENHUISEN APPLAUDS SOUTH AFRICA'S GOLDEN SHEARS VICTORY

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, extends his warmest congratulations to the South African hand-shearing team for their triumph at the 2026 Golden Shearers World Shearing and Wool Handling Championships in Masterton, New Zealand. For the sixth consecutive time, South Africa has secured its position as the world champion in the hand shearing division.

Bonile Rabela successfully defended his title as the World's Best Hand Shearer and Teboho Nyatsa earned the silver medal in a display of world-class skill. "This is a monumental achievement for South African agriculture. To maintain a world-title winning streak for six consecutive years is an achievement to be very proud of. It is a testament to the discipline, technical excellence and heritage of our rural workforce.

The duo also won the silver medal in the hand shearing division and in the All Nations hand shearing division Nyatsa won a gold medal and Rabela a bronze medal.

"Rabela and Nyatsa are more than just athletes—they are ambassadors for our wool industry. "Their ability to deliver a clean, efficient finish under extreme pressure showcases the high standards of quality that make South African wool a premium product on the global market," Minister Steenhuisen said.

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#### Issued by: The Ministry of Agriculture