



Produced by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development

October 2024 | ISSUE. 18



MINISTER STEENHUISEN COMMITTED TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

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Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MINISTER STEENHUISEN COMMITTED TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION



Minister John Steenhuisen handing over food parcels on World Food Day.

Samuel Kgatla

Eradicating hunger and malnutrition remains among Minister of Agriculture Mr John Steenhuisen's top priorities. The minister announced this during the commemoration of World Food Day (WFD), organised by the department and partners and held at Delportshoop in Northern Cape on 16 October 2024.

This year's WFD was commemorated under the theme, "Right to foods for a better life and better future". The main objective of

WFD is to promote global awareness and action for those who suffer from hunger and to highlight the need to ensure a healthy diet for all.

The recently launched National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (NFNSS) by the department painted a disturbing picture of the food security status of households in the country. This survey indicates that 63,5% of households experience food

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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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Minister John Steenhuisen and Deputy Minister Zoleka Capa handing over food parcels to one of the households in Delportshoop.

insecurity, with only 36,5% found to be food secure. Furthermore, a new United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) report on 6 June 2024 revealed that South Africa is one of 20 countries that account for 65% of all children living in severe child food poverty globally. Of particular concern, is that 23% of children in South Africa are classified in that category and are at risk of life-threatening malnutrition and related health complications.

As part of commemorating WFD and fighting hunger, the department assisted indigent households and two schools at Delportshoop with garden tools, water tanks, shade nets, vegetable seeds, watering cans, hosepipes, wheelbarrows and compost. Furthermore, the department also donated fruit trees. Partners like the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Ocean Group, PepsiCo, Tiger Brands, Unilever, ZZ2, and Macadamias South Africa (SAMAC) donated food parcels to the Delportshoop community.

Ms Sanna Crocodile, from one of the beneficiary indigent households in Delportshoop mentioned that her family of 12 was struggling and she appreciated the donation of food parcels that she received. Her family relies on her and her husband's pension grant to make ends meet.

Delportshoop has a population of over 15 000 people (Black African and Coloured). The agricultural sector is one of the major employment sectors in the town. Some common social issues facing the community include a high unemployment rate, hunger, poverty and a high crime rate comprising car theft, livestock theft, drug abuse, break-ins and armed robberies.

In his speech the minister said that the department was committed to dealing with the hunger and malnutrition faced by 37% of South African households according to the NFNSS report. "We are going to strengthen public-private partnerships to eradicate food insecurity and hunger in South Africa," said the minister. He further emphasised that the government played a leading role in ensuring that the poorest of the poor do not face severe hunger or famine.

"In this regard, the country has over 50 programmes and initiatives aimed at addressing food insecurity and malnutrition," concluded the minister.



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES OF FOOD INSECURITY AND OBESITY



From left: Deputy Minister Zoleka Capa, MEC Thembeni Madlopha-Mthethwa, Minister John Steenhuisen, FAO Rep. Dr Babagana Ahmadu and MEC Mase Monapole during the launch.



Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen and Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ms Zoleka Capa, holding the NFNSS report.

Samuel Kgatla

The National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (NFNSS) shows that South Africa is experiencing challenges of severe food insecurity and obesity in some provinces. This was revealed during the official launch of the NFNSS in Pretoria on 9 October 2024. The survey provides comprehensive research insights that give a baseline for informing planning and devising targeted food and nutrition security programmes.

The survey was conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) from 2021 to 2023. It was conducted in all the provinces with 10 reports produced; one for each province and one national report.

The study found that 69% of obese adults live in food-insecure households in South Africa, where families have few dietary choices and are forced to eat food with little nutritional value. The results of the survey show serious concerns of wasting and stunting in Northern Cape and Western Cape with challenges of obesity in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN). The rate of obesity in KZN has reached 39%, which is above the country average of 32%. Furthermore, stunting in the country has increased from 27,3% in 2016 to 28,8% in 2024. Over 43 000 households were sampled in each district in the country. The survey results have provided useful evidence for guiding government's planning and targeting of interventions.

One of the four food security indicators used in the survey, namely, the Household Food Insecurity Access Score (HFIAS), revealed that 63,5% of the households, nearly two-thirds, were food insecure, meaning only 36,5% were food secure. The data reveals that South Africa has undergone a nutritional transition

that is characterised by the triple burden of malnutrition, hidden hunger, and an overweight/obesity problem owing to the consumption of nutrient-poor diets.

During the launch, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, said that Government will require a whole-of-society approach that emphasises partnerships with the private sector and stakeholders across the food and nutrition spectrum.

"We are committed to ending malnutrition and hunger by 2030, an expectation for all countries in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment is further consistent with the National Development Plan's (NDP) Vision 2030. It is essential for South Africa to intensify efforts towards the SDGs of achieving zero hunger and zero poverty. All sectors have a responsibility to ensure that our efforts are effective in addressing the underlying causes of malnutrition," he said. Minister Steenhuisen also praised the HSRC and everyone who contributed to producing the NFNSS.

Professor Thokozani Simelane from the HSRC said that this has been a long journey, and he was the principal instigator of the report. "This has been the first study of its kind since 1994, and we used the novel methodology to engage with the households. We worked well with provinces, and everybody participated equally and the data we collected was significantly accurate," he said.

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SURVEY FINDINGS PAINT A GRIM PICTURE OF HUNGER

Mphahlela Rammutla



Minister John Steenhuisen addressing the media during the launch of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey in Pretoria.

South Africa is faced with alarming rates of food insecurity, with the reports indicating that up to 20 million people are severely affected. The emphasis from the Department of Agriculture is not only to look at bringing forth more food producers, but to address the problem of food wastage.

According to the latest National Food and Nutrition Security Survey findings released on 9 October 2024 by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr John Steenhuisen, an estimated 12,6 million tons of food is wasted per year in South Africa, which equates to a third of the available food. The department said that it will be supporting the implementation of the Strategy for Reducing Food Losses and Waste which is being developed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

Speaking during the official launch of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey findings, Minister Steenhuisen said, "A major part of the thinking strategy will be looking at not only how to encourage the creation of more food producers, but also looking at the food value chain and addressing the major problem of food wastage in South Africa."

He also pointed out that his department will elevate its efforts to meet increasing food demands while maintaining sustainability through supporting subsistence producers and increasing agricultural investments. "To date, over 14 000 subsistence

producers have been supported through the Presidential Economic Stimulus initiative (PES). This support is coupled with the equitable share as provided by Provincial Departments of Agriculture," said Minister Steenhuisen.

The minister said that the department is continuously taking full responsibility towards ensuring that policies and programmes are focused on food production, ensuring availability, accessibility and consumption of nutritious foods.

The survey alarmingly indicates that 63,5% of households, nearly two-thirds, are food insecure, with only 36,5% being food secure. "The National Food and Nutrition Security Survey results present a grim picture which ordinary, and especially poorer South Africans, face. Many households across all provinces of South Africa were found to be food insecure," the minister indicated.

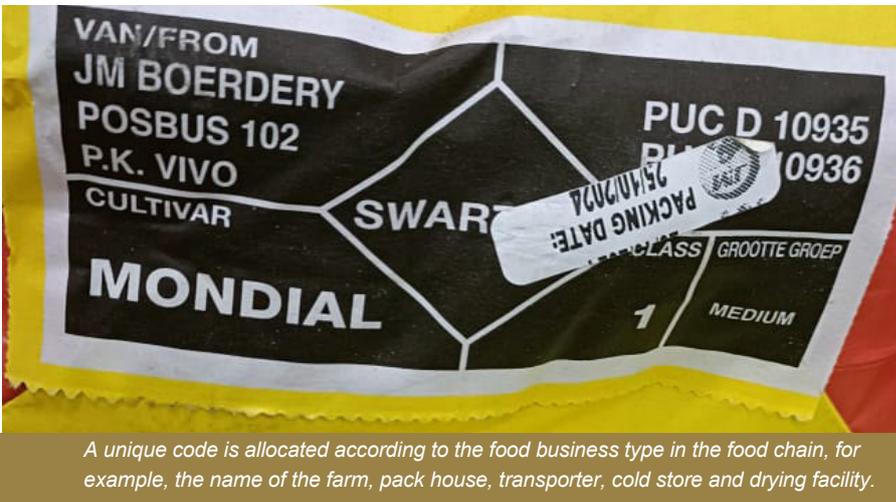
Despite an enduring history of rising agricultural production, the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, Steenhuisen said that South Africa remained a surplus producer of food with active export and import of products, leading to a range of food being available on the domestic markets.



Minister John Steenhuisen and Deputy Minister Zoleka Capa with representatives from provinces during the launch of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey.



FROM FARM TO FORK—FOOD HANDLING AND FOOD SAFETY IS KEY



A unique code is allocated according to the food business type in the food chain, for example, the name of the farm, pack house, transporter, cold store and drying facility.



A box of pineapples showing marking requirements according to the Agricultural Products Standards Act.

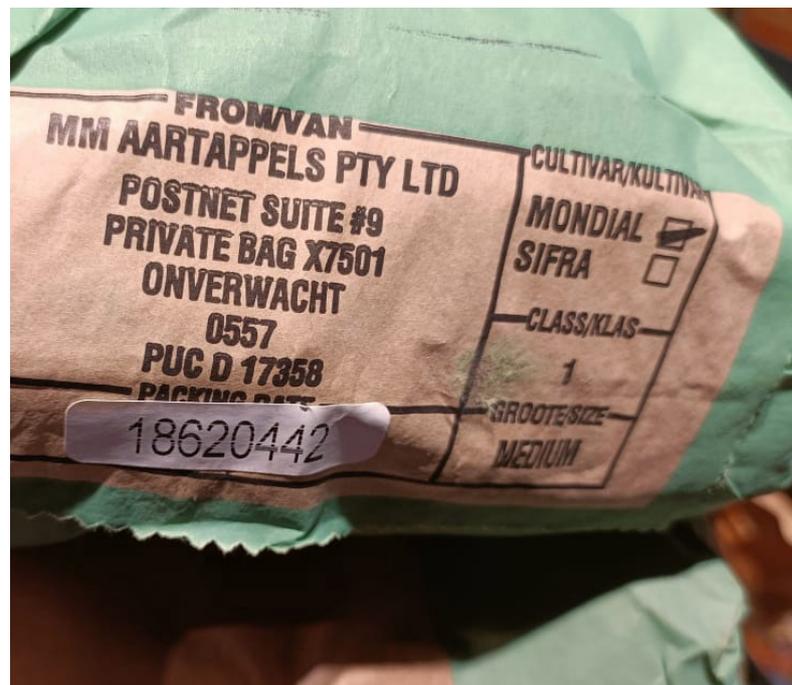
Rony Moremi

The recent spike in food poisoning in communities in our country has brought the importance of food safety and safe food handling under great scrutiny. Reports indicate that the food poisoning incidences in Gauteng and Limpopo are linked to food safety issues in spaza shops in townships, while others are linked to suspected poor hygiene, poor food handling practices, and recently confirmed organophosphate contamination.

In terms of the law, all Food Business Operators (FBOs) are required to register as food business operators. The Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990) provides for control over the sale and export of certain agricultural products, control over the sale of certain imported agricultural products, and control over related products. The Act makes provision for the minister to develop export regulations and regulations for agricultural products. These regulations prescribe quality parameters, composition, labelling and marking requirements, container and packing requirements, sampling and methods of inspection.

The purpose of registering as an FBO is for traceability of agricultural products from farm to fork throughout the food chain. When one registers as an FBO, a unique code is allocated according to the food business type in the food chain, for example, the name of the farm, packhouse, transporter, cold store and drying facility, etc. With this code, the department can trace food products in the food chain. This is also a requirement stipulated in the Standards: Food Hygiene and Food Safety of Regulated Food Products of Plant Origin Intended for Exports (Government Notice No. R707 of 13 May 2005), promulgated under the Agricultural Products Standards Act.

FBOs can register online <http://webapps1.daff.gov.za/FBO> or manually by submitting their FBO applications by email to tebogoc@dalrrd.gov.za • AnsieE@dalrrd.gov.za • MarutlaS@dalrrd.gov.za or calling 012 319 6070/6387/6018.



Bag of potatoes showing marking requirements.

SAFE USE AND HANDLING OF PESTICIDES CAN SAVE LIVES



Banned Aldicarb, also known on the streets as galephirimi, is some of the illegal pesticides confiscated during raids.



Sthembiso Dube, an Agricultural Inputs Controller, on the ground during the joint operation raid in Klerksdorp.



Unregistered mosquito and cockroaches repellents seized in multiple stores in Mafikeng.

Rony Moremi

The recent spike in food poisoning calls for more vigilance on the safe use of pesticides as some of the food poisoning incidents are linked to cross contamination involving pesticides. To deal with the issues of food-borne diseases, government took a multi-sectoral approach which comprises the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Health, Department of Home Affairs, South African Police Services (SAPS) and the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD).

The role of DALRRD through the Directorate: Agricultural Inputs Control is to provide guidance on the safe use of pesticides. The department advises consumers to purchase pesticides from reputable and accredited retailers and to look for products that are registered and labelled according to the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act, 1947 (Act No. 36 of 1947). Pesticides that are registered with the department in terms of this Act will have a registration number and they will be labelled, highlighting the hazards and risks associated with the use of the pesticide.

The sale and use of pesticides are regulated in terms of this Act. The Act prohibits the sale of any fertiliser, farm feeds, agricultural remedies and stock remedies that are not registered under the Act. Regulations relating to agricultural remedies, which were gazetted on 25 August 2023 (Government Notice No. 3812 of 2023), prohibits the sale and use of pesticides for any purpose

or any manner of application other than those stated on the label.

The DALRRD inspection unit from the Directorate: Agricultural Inputs Control conducts raids regularly to remove unregistered pesticides and chemicals from the streets. These raids are specifically targeted at spaza shops and supermarkets in the metros and informal sectors. Illegal pesticides that are not registered under the Act, as well as registered pesticides that are decanted for illegal trade, are seized during raids and booked for destruction. Offenders are usually charged, and a penalty or fine is imposed.

According to Maluta Mudzungu, Registrar of Act 36 in the directorate, the most common pesticides confiscated during raids include Aldicarb (marketed in the informal market as Halephirimi), Green Leaf Cockroach Killer, boric acid, mosquito coils, ant killers, frack superpower Doom, electric mosquito liquid repellent, mosquito tablets, insect chalk, Otapiapia, red super powerful Doom, cockroach killing aerosols, citronella, Snipper and Dubula Zonke.

These pesticides can be harmful when used for purposes other than the ones they are registered for. Recommendation for use is on the label of the product, meaning that the product that is meant to be used on potatoes against a certain worm cannot be used on tomatoes.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN 2024: "RURAL WOMEN CULTIVATING GOOD FOOD FOR ALL"

Jabulani Malinga

Adding to what Minister Nyhontsho said, Ms Selina Pinky Hlabedi, president of Women in Agriculture and Rural Development (WARD), said: "Women need to help uplift other people through agriculture. Women want land; young women in our country want land, not because they want to rent it, but because they want to work the land."

"Women farmers are as productive and enterprising as their male counterparts, but face difficulties when they want to access land, credit, agricultural inputs, markets and high-value agri-food chains, and obtain lower prices for their crops," added Hlabedi.

She further encouraged women to not give up because farming is not easy, and not a "get-rich-quick" scheme. One must have passion and put in a lot of hard work, then they will be rewarded.

The International Day of Rural Women highlights both the contributions that women make in rural regions and the numerous obstacles they encounter. The goal of commemorating the day is to help rural women and girls to build their capacity in response to climate change through agricultural production, food security, and natural resource management.



Minister Mzwanele Nyontsho engaging with the exhibitors.

As nurturers of the next generation, rural women are best positioned to ensure that the land allocated by the department will be used productively to increase the revenue of rural communities, increase tax revenue, create employment opportunities and address hunger. Deliberately advancing gender equality is a vital component of proactively addressing harmful historical perceptions of rural women," said Minister Nyhontsho in his address at the International Day of Rural Women held at the Rustenburg Civic Centre, in North West.

Minister Nyontsho also encouraged rural women and the youth to apply for land by making use of the department's Beneficiary Selection Policy that promotes the allocation of at least 50% of farms to rural women.

The International Day for Rural Women was first recognised by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 18 December 2007. This day was established to recognise the critical role and contribution of rural women in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty. It has since been commemorated every year on 15 October for the past 17 years. The theme for this year's commemoration was: "Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All".

A report from the UN states that approximately 40% of the total agricultural labour force in developing countries comprises women. The contribution of women's labour in agricultural and other related fields is the backbone of the economies of several countries.



Minister Nyhontsho and dignitaries during the commemoration of International Day of Rural Women.

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The purpose of the commemoration is also an appeal to the global community to actively rebuild global food systems from the ground up, by empowering rural women to produce and distribute diverse and healthy food.

“Those of you who reside in rural areas know the struggles, the sacrifices, and the resilience of our mothers, our sisters, our wives, and our daughters. They maintain our homesteads with diligence and keep the next generation fed and healthy. Your efforts deserve recognition and appreciation,” said Minister Nyhontsho.

The initiative to put the spotlight on this day aligns with the global efforts to support rural women’s livelihoods and leadership, with the goals of achieving zero poverty, zero hunger and gender equality.

“We should collectively improve training and skills development to promote rural women’s entrepreneurship and productive employment, including through cooperatives and employment-intensive investment programmes. In addition, protect women from unacceptable forms of work, especially on farms; strengthen social protection and workers’ organisations. Rural women are the centre of reducing poverty, hunger, unemployment, and cost of living,” concluded the minister.

The event was also attended by various women organisations, including the deputy representative of the UN Women South Africa Multi-Country Office, Dr Hazel Gooding; chairperson of the Select Committee of Agriculture, Land Reform and Mineral Resources, Mr Mpho Gift Modise; executive mayor of Rustenburg Local Municipality, Councillor Shiela Mabale-Huma; and the members of the executive committee of agriculture and economic development from various provinces.



The DDG: Rural Development, Ms Thandi Moyo, was the programme director of the day.



Minister Mzwanele Nyontsho in an interview with SABC News on the International Day of Rural Women.

DALRRD HAS HELPED CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS SUPPORTING RURAL WOMEN

Keitumetse Moticoe



One of the exhibitors displaying her products at the International Day of Rural Women.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has made significant strides in addressing gender inequality in its policies and implementation to make an impact in the lives of rural women. This is according to the Deputy Director-General (DDG): Rural Development, Ms Nomtandazo Moyo, reflecting on the International Day of Rural Women, which is commemorated on 15 October annually. First observed in 2008 following a declaration by the United Nations General Assembly, the day recognises the crucial role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agriculture and rural development, improving food security, and eradicating rural poverty.

Ms Moyo said that the day cements the notion that rural women and girls are pivotal in building the food systems in rural areas and driving the rural economy.

“In large parts, they participate in crop production, livestock care and provide food, water and fuel for their families, and engage in off-farm activities to diversify their families’ livelihoods. In addition, they carry out most of the unpaid care work in rural areas, including caring for children, older persons and the sick,” Moyo added.

She further added that: “A significant policy intervention is the approval and implementation of the Beneficiary Selection and Land Allocation Policy, 2020, which specifically states that 50% of all land acquired by the department will be allocated to smallholders and that no less than 50% of this land should be allocated to women, while not less than 40% to youth, and 10% to persons with disabilities.”

“In the 2023/24 financial year, more than 50% of the approximately 700 000 ha of land acquired was transferred to over 71 253 women. Still, only 13% of Black women have access to

land,” added Moyo.

She expatiated that in terms of upskilling unemployed rural youth, the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) programme has facilitated the training of 5 476 rural females since 2019 in various sectors such as agriculture, business, construction, tourism, mining and quarrying, transport, health, safety, and security.

“In terms of the Restitution of Land Rights programme, 179 820 female-headed households have benefited from the programme since 1995, either in terms of financial compensation or through land transfers,” Moyo further reflected.

She said that despite this, rural women are not the predominant labour providers in the formal agricultural sector while flagging the Statistics South Africa, Quarterly Labour Force Survey (2024). Reflecting on the statistics, she said: “Men have been the primary participants in the agricultural sector from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2023. In the fourth quarter of 2023, the number of men and women actively involved in agriculture was 628 000 and 292 000, respectively and yet rural women comprise 52% of the rural population.”

Moyo mentioned that it is therefore important to highlight the need to celebrate women’s contributions to the rural economy and to note the different sectors’ contributions to empowering rural women through various programmes and financial and non-financial incentives.

According to Moyo, the department celebrated the International Day of Rural Women to recognise rural women as key agents for achieving the socioeconomic and environmental changes required for sustainable development. She indicated that the event will explore strategies on addressing opportunities and barriers rural women face in establishing and maintaining small and medium businesses.

Moyo added that the focus is also on building and supporting rural women’s leadership, skills and resilience to enable them to grow their capacities and respond to issues such as climate change through agricultural production, food security, natural resources management, red tape in establishing businesses, and access to financial and non-financial resources.

Reflecting on the report from the Commission for Gender Equality titled, “Women in the South African Economy (2024)”, which says that the rural economy is an untapped source of economic power and growth, the DDG said: “Women outnumber men as farmers, and women own more small and micro businesses than men. Within the rural economy, and particularly in townships, these businesses have the potential to sustain economic development and growth.”

“LAND IS THE FOUNDATION OF LIFE,” SAYS MINISTER NYHONTSO



Minister Nyhontso with former labour tenants and farm workers following the title deed handover ceremony.

Mphahlela Rammutla

Minister Nyhontso has hailed the title deeds handover as a significant milestone in government efforts to return land to the people. The Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development was handing over 36 title deeds to former farm dwellers and labour tenants in three district municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal, namely Amajuba, UThukela and uMzinyathi.

The handover ceremony took place in Newcastle during Heritage Month. “Land is the foundation of life, all spiritual, social and economic development is accelerated by a concrete relationship between the people and the land, ownership of land is a guarantee of wealth for generations,” he added.

The minister told the gathering that, “Without fear of contradiction, land is the starting point of consolidating the key pillars of the seventh administration. The seventh administration seeks economic inclusion, growth, and job creation.”

The title deeds comprised more than 16 000 ha of agricultural land that were acquired by the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DLRRD) as part of the Land Tenure Reform programme. The Land Tenure Reform programme seeks to address challenges of individuals and communities who worked and lived on farms from which they were evicted or faced ill-treatment by the landowners.

Minister Nhyontso had strong words for communal property association (CPA) members who refused to step down at the end of their terms of office, saying they do not have respect for the land they were given.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr Paul Zwane from Zibambeleni Communal Property Association, which received the title deed to 400 ha of land, said that the CPA will utilise the property to plough and continue using other portions for grazing. He said that his community will work on growing their livestock to realise the full potential of their land. He expressed the joy of his community and all other beneficiaries for this opportunity for growth and prosperity and the gift that they have been given.

The handover of the title deeds is a demonstration of the government’s commitment to enhancing land reform and to providing security of tenure pursuant to Section 26(6) of the Constitution and The Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 (Act No. 62 of 1997), which provides for measures, with the State’s assistance, to facilitate long-term security of land tenure; to regulate the conditions of residence on certain land.

Furthermore, DLRRD is obligated to enforce the provision of the Labour Tenants Act, 1996 (Act No. 3 of 1996), which specifically caters for farm dwellers who provided their labour without receiving equitable compensation.

PLAS FARMER WINS BIG AT WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS

Pfumelani Tsedu



Mulalo is a professional chef who started farming with the aim of producing meat for her catering business.

Ms Mulalo Munyamela is the proud winner of the Best Commercial Producer Award, which she received during the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA) and the Women Entrepreneur Awards (WEA) held in St Marco Hall in Polokwane on Thursday, 12 September 2024. Munyamela is the owner of the 1, 355,7195-hectare Palatable Farms Ltd situated in the Waterberg District. The farm was awarded to her on a lease agreement through the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

The Female Entrepreneur Awards were initiated in 1999 as part of mainstreaming the participation of women in agriculture. The YEA and WEA in agriculture represent more than just acknowledgement of exceptional contributions to the agricultural sector. They are a celebration of the resilience, innovation, and dedication of women, youth, and persons with disabilities. WEA has seven categories, namely, Best Female Worker, Best Subsistence Producer, Best Smallholder Producer, Best Agri-Processor, Best Commercial Producer, Best Exporter and the MEC's Special Award (Disability).

Mulalo started farming with livestock in 2018 during which she rented three farms. She says she experienced livestock theft and that motivated her to apply for a farm of her own, where she would be able to oversee things from a closer range. In 2022, she got Portion 2 of Noord Braband 114 KQ in Thabazimbi through the PLAS programme.

Because the farm was bigger, it allowed her to also tap into crop farming; she planted 500 ha of sunflower. The primary activities on the farm are sunflower and livestock, with a focus on Bonsmara cattle using stud bulls. Mulalo also decided to utilise the

land to its full capacity by including sheep, goats and broiler and layer chickens.

She sells her sunflower to AFGRI to produce oil and livestock at different auctions. Some farmers come to buy from her for breeding purposes after getting information through word of mouth, and a transaction starts with a minimum of ten Bonsmaras. In 2023, Mulalo won a national award for the Best Commercial Producer.

As part of the project's community development, she also trains local customers who buy chicken in bulk on proper handling, feeding and poultry management.

"As the cooperative expands and increases production, we are looking forward to seeing them participating in the formal markets such as the long-awaited Lebowakgomo Abattoir, whose operations now seem imminent," added Letsoalo.

Although the cooperative was mainly registered to farm with vegetables, poultry, and livestock, the poultry aspect being the broiler production business is currently the main commodity. The cooperative has four houses that can accommodate about 4 400 chickens. There is also a section for vegetable production that is under production and has the potential to expand further.

In the current financial year, DALRRD has supported the project with poultry feed, 4 000 chicks and various poultry production equipment to the value of approximately R500 000

In addition, various production equipment, including chicken feed, sawdust, medication, water tanks, lights, gas heaters/brooders and automatic egg incubators and hatchers have been provided by the department.

The Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality has also supported the project in the last financial year and on-going support is being provided by the Limpopo Provincial Department of Agriculture (LDARD).



Mulalo has 145 Bonsmara and uses four stud bulls to breed.

Cont. from pg 12



Ms Mulalo Munyamela of Palatable Farm PTY (LTD) receiving an award from MEC Naledi Kekana, Acting HOD Mr Jethro Nowata and the Chief Director: Agrarian Transformation, Ms Melinda Labuschagne.



Feed for the cattle is supplemented with grass, Molatek Master 20, molasses, maize and salt.



Mulalo with graduates. From the left: Thembele Nkosana from the University of Free State, Lindelani Simelani from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Sandile Lubisi from Mfolozi TVET College.

PET OWNERS WELCOME DALRRD RABIES AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Veterinarians and animal technicians came in numbers for the Rabies Awareness campaign at Pampierstad.

Samuel Kgatla

Pet owners under Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality in North West responded positively to the Rabies Awareness Month campaign organised by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) and the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. A total of 1 394 dogs and 71 cats were vaccinated and spayed at Pampierstad Sports Ground in Pampierstad Village and at other stations on 27 September 2024 under the Greater Taung Local Municipality.

This campaign aimed to educate the community about the danger of rabies, and to help them understand the importance of vaccinating their pets.

The campaign was one of the activities lined up by DALRRD for the Rabies Awareness Month and World Rabies Day (WRD). WRD is observed each year on 28 September, promoted by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control to raise awareness of the consequences of human and animal rabies and how to prevent it. Advancements in rabies prevention have shown to help in reducing transmissions between animals and humans.

Veterinarians and animal technicians were based at seven different stations around Pampierstad and nearby villages to vaccinate dogs and cats. Dr Edson Man'ombe, responsible for animal health at Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, said that he was impressed with the number of people who had brought their pets for vaccination and sterilisation. "We are here for vaccination and sterilisation of dogs and cats. The first phase was the vaccination of dogs and cats in four villages under Ga-Mothibi Tribal Authority. This is a combination of two provinces, North West and Northern Cape. We are here at the interface of two provinces in

commemoration of WRD 2024, and that is why we are breaking the boundaries between the two provinces. This is to make sure that we control the dog population and reduce it from roaming around the streets. The awareness went well as we had a huge turn out," he said.

Ms Mpho Majagoro from Pampierstad said that she was happy to bring her dog for vaccination and she mentioned that rabies is a serious disease affecting dogs' health. She added it was important for pet owners to bring their dogs and cats for vaccination.

South Africa, like many parts of the world, faces the ongoing threat of rabies, with the disease present in all nine provinces. Certain areas, particularly in the eastern parts of the country, are more heavily affected, including Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape and the eastern Free State. This highlights the need for widespread vigilance to protect both animals and humans from the disease. The South African Veterinary Association (SAVA) also stresses the importance of vaccination in rabies prevention, particularly for pets.



Vets and animal technicians sterilising a dog during the Rabies Awareness campaign at Pampierstad.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT FOR NARYSEC GRADUATES



Minister Mzwanele Nyhontso and DDG Thandi Moyo, in the middle, during the NARYSEC graduation in Soweto.

Samuel Kgatla

The future for 108 National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) graduates is looking bright and promising following their graduation from various training programmes and higher education institutions. These NARYSEC participants received their graduation certificates during a ceremony hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) at South West TVET College in Soweto on 12 September 2024. Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development, Mzwanele Nyhontso, presided over the event.

DALRRD had recruited 125 participants to receive training through the programme in July 2022, however, only 108 of the recruits completed their skills development courses during the 2022/2023 financial year. Seventeen participants dropped out owing to various reasons, including absconding, lack of commitment, and others taking up opportunities elsewhere.

The Gauteng NARYSEC graduation ceremony marks a significant milestone for the youth who completed programmes and training in Poultry Production Level 2 Learnership, IT System Development Level 4, Accommodation Service Level 2, Security Management Level 3 and Film and Television production operations level 4. The department spent over R3,2 million on training these participants..

The programme was a collaborative effort between NARYSEC, South West Gauteng TVET College, Capricorn TVET College, Letaba TVET College, Sekhukhune TVET College and Bidvest Protea Coin Gijima Academy. These graduates have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment throughout the NARYSEC programme, which provides them with information on follow-up support and opportunities, such as job placement assistance and further training.

DALRRD assisted some of the graduates with registration of their newly-established companies through the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) and further issued them with R2 000,00 vouchers as start-up packs for creating small and micro enterprises. Others had already started their businesses before completing the programme.

Ms Smangele Mahlangu started the Sma Farm Connect at Sokhulum Village in Bronkhorstspuit, and she farms with broiler chickens and layers. She currently has almost 200 chickens and is planning to multiply the number in the future. Smangele thanked the department for the NARYSEC programme, which gave her the opportunity to grow her poultry business.

Minister Nyhontso praised all the graduates and wished them luck with their future endeavours. "NARYSEC is designed to fast track infrastructure projects in rural areas. It helps people to remain

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in communities because we know most graduates prefer looking for employment in urban areas. It is important to invest in youth with this programme, so that they can continue to improve the quality of their lives and uplift their communities. We will continue to capacitate you to deliver services in rural areas,” he said.

NARYSEC graduates continue to make significant contributions to their communities by applying their skills and knowledge. Since its inception on 1 September 2010, NARYSEC has to date recruited 17 993 rural youth in all provinces. This programme develops the skills of targeted NARYSEC participants through various skills development initiatives in partnership with other public and private sector institutions in line with the Rural Economy Transformation Strategy. This programme targets unemployed rural youth of all demographics aged 18 to 35 years.



Minister Mzwanele Nyhontso shaking hands with one of the NARYSEC graduates.



Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development Mzwanele Nyhontso presided over the NARYSEC graduation in Soweto.