

**REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT (JULY 2014 – MARCH 2019)**

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to provide an account of the work of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) during the Fifth Parliament; and to inform the Members of the new Parliament of key outstanding issues pertaining to the oversight and legislative programme of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as DAFF or the Department) and its entities.

This report provides an overview of the activities the Committee undertook during the Fifth Parliament, the outcome of key activities, as well as any challenges that emerged during the period under review and issues that should be considered for follow-up during the Sixth Parliament. It summarises the key issues for follow-up and concludes with recommendations to strengthen operational and procedural processes to enhance the Committee’s oversight and legislative roles in future.

1. **INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 The Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

**2.1.1 Functions of the Committee**

The mandate of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) is derived from the mission and vision of Parliament and in line with the powers of the Committee as mandated by Chapter 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Committee is therefore, mandated to:

* consider, amend and/or initiate legislation that is specific to, or impacts on, agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
* consider and review the strategic plans and budgets of the Department and its entities;
* monitor and oversee the activities, financial and non-financial performance of the Ministry and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as the Department) and its entities;
* monitor and oversee the implementation of the Department’s policies and legislation;
* consider sector-related international treaties and agreements; and
* provide a platform for the public to participate and present views on specific topics and/or legislation in relation to the three sectors.

**2.1.2 Method of Work of the Committee**

The Committee held weekly meetings on Tuesdays (allotted slot) but often more than once a week as per each Committee Term Programme to:

* Engage the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and its entities on topical issues and other policy and legislative mandates.
* Consider Strategic Plans, Annual Performance Plans (APPs), Budgets and Annual Reports of the Department and its entities.
* Oversee the implementation of the Department and entities’ programmes and budgetary use as per the APPs for each relevant Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period.
* Consider Legislation as tabled.
* Consider the State of the Nation Address(es).
* Engage the Department on government priorities as per the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF).
* Hold Public Hearings on topical issues and legislation that is being processed.
* Undertake oversight visits to provinces and entities.
* Engage other relevant government departments and institutions such as the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), etc. on sectoral issues.

**2.2 The Department and Entities falling within the Committee’s portfolio**

1. **Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

The aim of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (hereinafter referred to as DAFF or the Department) is to lead, support and promote agricultural, forestry and fisheries resources growth and management through policies, strategies and programmes that contribute to and embrace economic growth and development; job creation; sustainable use of natural resources; food security and rural development. The Department’s legislative mandate is derived from Section 27(1)(b), as well as Section 24(b)(iii) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

In addition, the Department contributes directly to three of the 12 national government priority outcomes for the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2014-2019, namely:

* Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth.
* Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities contributing towards food security for all.
* Outcome 10: Protect and enhance our environmental assets and natural resources.

During the 2013/14 financial year, the Department reviewed its strategic goals and associated objectives to address priorities that are identified in the National Development Plan (NDP). Through the process, the Department reduced its strategic goals from six in prior years (including 2013/14) to the following four goals, effective from 2014/15:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strategic Goal** | **Strategic Objectives** |
| **1:** Effective and efficient strategic leadership, governance and administration | **1.1** Strengthen the culture of compliance with statutory requirements and good governance practice.  **1.2** Strengthen the support, guidance and interaction with stakeholders in the sector  **1.3** Strengthen institutional mechanisms for integrated policy and planning in the sector |
| **2:** Enhanced production, employment and economic growth in the sector | **2.1** Advance APAP through increased production and productivity in prioritised value chains  **2.2** Effective management of biosecurity and sector related risks  **2.3** Ensure support for market access and processing of agriculture, forestry and fisheries products |
| **3:** Enabling environment for food security and sector transformation | **3.1** Lead and coordinate government food security initiatives  **3.2** Enhance skills capacity for efficient delivery in the sector  **3.3** Strengthen planning, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive support programmes |
| **4:** Sustainable use of natural resources in the sector | **4.1** Ensure the conservation, protection, rehabilitation and recovery of depleted and degraded natural resources  **4.2** Ensure appropriate responses to climate change through the implementation of effective prescribed frameworks |

1. **Entities of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries**

| **Name of Entity** | **Role/Mandate of Entity** |
| --- | --- |
| Agricultural Research Council (ARC) | The ARC was established in terms of Section 2 of the Agricultural Research Act, 1990 (Act No. 86 of 1990). It is listed as a National Public Entity under Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), Act No.1 of 1999, as amended. The ARC is the principal agricultural research institution in the county. It provides agricultural research and development, technology transfer and support to the agricultural community. In addition, the ARC is the custodian of the country's national collections of insects. |
| Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) | The OBP was established in terms of the Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act, 1999 (Act No.19 of 1999); and is listed under the PFMA as a Schedule 3B National Public Entity. It is a state-owned bio-technical company that manufactures livestock vaccines and related products for the global animal health care industry. |
| National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) | The NAMC was established in terms of Section 3 and 4 of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996) as amended by Act No. 52 of 2001. It is listed as a National Public Entity under Schedule 3A of the PFMA. The core mandate of the NAMC is to investigate and advise the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on agricultural marketing policies and their application, and to co-ordinate agricultural marketing policy in relation to national economic, social and development policies and international trends and developments. |
| Perishable Products Export Control Board (PPECB) | The PPECB was established in terms of Section 2 of the Perishable Products Export Control Act, 1983 (Act No. 9 of 1983). It is a National Public Entity that is listed in the PFMA under Schedule 3A. The PPECB controls the export shipment of perishable produce from South Africa and the order of shipment at all ports; makes recommendations on the handling of perishable produce when moved to and from railway trucks and other vehicles or cold stores; and promotes uniform freight rates for the export of perishable products. The entity is responsible for issuance of export certificates for perishable products. |
| Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Ncera) | Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd is a public company listed under Schedule 3B in terms of the PFMA. The entity was not established through an Act of Parliament and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is the sole shareholder. It is situated in the Eastern Cape on state-owned land of approximately 4 000 hectares. The primary function of Ncera is to assist developing farmers and rural communities by providing a variety of services such as advice and training, agricultural extension services, the mechanisation of agricultural production, animal improvement schemes and marketing of agricultural products.  After recommendations from the 4th Parliament, the entity is in the process of deregistration and its assets and junior personnel have been transferred to the ARC, while the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer remain with DAFF. |
| Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF) | The MLRF was established in terms of Section 10 of the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA), Act No.18 of 1998; and is a Schedule 3A National Public Entity as specified in the PFMA. The MLRF is the main source of funding for the operational activities of the Fisheries Management Branch. In terms of Section 10(3) of the MLRA, the Director-General of the Department administers the MLRF in consultation with the Minister. The functions of the MLRF are executed by the staff of the Branch in partnership with other stakeholders in the fisheries-related industry. The mandate and core business of the MLRF is to manage the development and sustainable use of South Africa’s marine resources, to protect the integrity and quality of the marine ecosystem and to ensure the growth of the aquaculture sector. |
| South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) | SAVC was established in terms of Section 2 of the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Act, 1982 (No. 19 of 1982). It is the regulatory body for the veterinary and para-veterinary professions in South Africa and has a statutory duty to determine scientific and ethical standards of professional conduct and education. |

**The Land and Agricultural Development Bank of South Africa (Land Bank)**

The Land Bank was established in terms of Section 1 of the Land Bank Act, 1912 (Act No. 18 of 1912), which was repealed by Section 53 of the Land Bank Act, 1944 (Act No. 13 of 1944), which was further repealed and replaced by the Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002 (Act No. 15 of 2002). The Land Bank operates as a development finance institution within the agricultural and agribusiness sectors. It provides a range of finance options to a broad spectrum of clients in the agricultural sector, including entrepreneurs, women and youth through its network of branches and satellite offices.

However, the Land Bank has since July 2008 been administered by the National Treasury following a proclamation from the former President of the country and therefore, accounts to the Minister of Finance. As a result, the Committee initially experienced challenges in getting the Land Bank to fully account to the Committee on its activities on a regular basis. This is notwithstanding the Department’s AgriBEE Fund and Mafisa that are managed by the Land Bank.

**2.3 Sectoral Stakeholders that the Committee interacted with during the Fifth Parliament**

The following table presents some of the stakeholders that interacted with the Committee on sectoral matters:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Farmer organisations and commodity groups** | **Fisheries organisations** | **Forestry agencies and private companies** | **Academic institutions** | **Trade unions** | **International organisations** |
| 1. AgriSA 2. National Emergent Red Meat Producers Organisation (NERPO) 3. African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA) 4. National Agricultural Farmers Union (NAFU) 5. Grain SA 6. South African Poultry Association (SAPA) | 1. Masifundise Development Trust/Coastal Link South Africa 2. Eastern Cape Black Fishers Association | 1. South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL) 2. Sappi 3. Mondi 4. Mountain to Ocean (MTO) Group 5. PG Bison 6. Amathole Forestry Company (Pty) Ltd | 1. Stellenbosch University 2. University of the Western Cape 3. University of Pretoria | 1. Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) 2. Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) |

**3. STATISTICS OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

The table below provides an overview of the number of meetings held, legislation and international agreements processed and the number of oversight trips undertaken by the Committee, as well as statutory appointments that the Committee made during the Fifth Parliament:

| **Activity** | **2014/15** | **2015/16** | **2016/17** | **2017/18** | **2018/19** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Meetings held | 28 | 30 | 39 | 27 | 40 | 176 |
| Legislation processed | 3 | None | 2 | 1 (NFA Bill) | None | 5 |
| Oversight trips undertaken | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Study tours undertaken | None | None | None | None | None | N/A |
| International agreements processed | 3 | None | None | None | None | 3 |
| Statutory appointments made | 2 | 1 | 3 | None | 1 | 7 |
| Petitions considered | None | None | None | None | None | N/A |

**4. COMMITTEE’S FOCUS AREAS AND BRIEFINGS DURING THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT**

In the beginning of the Fifth Parliament the Committee focused on outstanding issues from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that have been highlighted in the Report of the Committee’s Fourth Parliament. These focus areas included inter alia, the finalisation and implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), which later became the revitalisation of the agriculture and agroprocessing value chain (RAAVC); implementation of the Smallscale Fisheries Policy; deregistration of Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd; legislative and policy review; integrated producer development and support services that will be inclusive of the forestry and fisheries sectors; full integration of the Fisheries Management Branch to the Department including robust oversight over the Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF); and strengthened intergovernmental relations and coordination of relevant activities between the Department and its entities.

It should be noted that while in certain cases, the Committee requested specific extensive briefings on topical issues across all three sectors that are in the ambit of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, most of the issues and programmes were also dealt with through the reporting processes on quarterly performance and briefings on budgets and annual reports. The Committee also held briefings with the Department on pronouncements that were made by the President during State of the Nation Addresses (SONAs), most notably, the implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative and commercialisation of black farmers that was pronounced in 2017.

**Specific Areas of Focus**

1. **Implementation of the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) 2014 – 2019**

The MTSF is the Government’s strategic plan for the 2014 to 2019 period. It is a five-year implementation phase of the National Development Plan (NDP) that is outcomes-based, and also takes into account the New Growth Path, the Industrial Policy Action Plan and other Government policy foci. The two over-arching strategic themes of the MTSF are **radical economic transformation** and **improving service delivery**. The MTSF’s aim is to ensure policy coherence, alignment and coordination across Government Plans, as well as alignment with budgeting processes. The Committee focused on overseeing how the Department’s activities were aligned and contributing to the fulfilment of the Government Priority Outcomes that relate to the three sectors as outlined in the MTSF 2014 – 2019. The Department initially did not report on the implementation of the MTSF targets and the Committee went to great lengths to ensure that it reports on this during every quarterly performance and expenditure briefing. In the medium term, the Department’s policy initiatives were focused at fulfilling the MTSF’s Outcomes 4, Outcome 7 and Outcome 10, which relate to job creation; rural development and food security; as well as natural resource sustainability and management, respectively.

Through the Committee’s oversight, the Department made efforts to align their Programmes with the MTSF Outcomes. While it did not report on some of the targets for Outcomes 4 and 7, it managed to achieve some of the MTSF targets such as putting 1 million hectares (ha) of unutilised land in communal areas under production by 2019; providing support to smallholder producers; hectares of land that has been put under rehabilitation and research reports on prioritised fish stock levels. However, for Outcome 4 (job creation), most of the jobs that were reportedly created through the Department’s interventions were temporary or seasonal; and despite its interventions, there was no reduction in the number of people that are vulnerable to hunger as expected. The Department did not achieve some of the MTSF targets that are essential in the development and transformation of the sector namely, ensuring that smallholder producers have access to markets; reports on implementation and review of APAP/RAAVC plans; expansion of land under irrigation; development and implementation of the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Framework (PDALF) Bill and the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support. The latter are expected to be finalised and implemented during the Sixth Parliament.

1. **Food Security (Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative) and Food Safety**

In September 2013, Cabinet approved the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, which is a collaboration between DAFF and the Department of Social Development. The Policy seeks to ensure the availability, accessibility and affordability of safe and nutritious food at national and household levels. To further realise some of the policy objectives, the former President subsequently launched the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative in October 2013 to address increasing household food insecurity in the country. The aim of Fetsa Tlala is to put 1 million hectares of fallow land particularly in the former homelands, under production by 2019. The programme also seeks to link smallholder producers to government institutions for preferential procurement (market access). Following some impact evaluations that were done by the Presidency, towards the end of 2015, coordination of Food Security was placed under the leadership of the Office of the Deputy President. Through the Deputy Presidency’s Office, an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group was subsequently established to develop the National Food and Nutrition Security Implementation Plan that will be an implementation arm of the Policy. The Committee held joint briefings including a Workshop on Food Security and Food Safety with other relevant Committees (Health, Social Development and Trade and Industry) to receive progress on the Implementation Plan and the relevant departments’ response to the Diagnostic/Implementation Evaluation of Nutrition Interventions for Children Under Five that was commissioned by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). The Task team that constitute six departments (i.e DAFF, DOH, DSD, DBE, DRDLR and DPME) and led by DPME recently presented progress to the Committee on the implementation of the Plan.

DAFF addressed food insecurity, and implemented the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative, by providing support through its conditional grants, namely, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) for smallholder producers and Ilima/letsema for subsistence producers. The latter targeted poor households through distribution of agricultural starter packs (production inputs). Despite various interventions to address food insecurity in the country, reports from Statistics South Africa (StatsSA)’s 2017 General Household Survey (GHS) revealed that the country is not winning the war against hunger as the proportion of food insecure individuals has marginally decreased during the MTSF period from 23.6% in 2010 to 21.3% in 2017. In addition, StatsSA reports also showed that the marginal decrease was due to social grants that enabled the purchasing of food, rather than food production initiatives as 15.6% of South African households were involved in agricultural production during the reference period (i.e. 2002 – 2017), in some cases, due to non-affordability of production inputs. More than two thirds (78.5%) of the South African households that were involved in agricultural activity did so to secure an additional source of food. While South Africa may be reportedly food secure at the national scale with the help of imports, approximately 6 million households (10.4% in 2017) were reportedly food insecure as they were unable to buy food; and poverty-related food insecurity had also increased in urban areas to 17.5% in 2017 due to increasing unemployment. Therefore, primary food production to ensure self-sufficiency is key; and the finalisation and implementation of the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support is essential for improving the productive capacity of developing producers and providing the necessary support to subsistence households.

**Food Safety**

Food safety came under public spotlight in recent years due to outbreaks of diseases that are derived from plant and animal-based products either through consumption or contact, particularly with animals, for example, avian influenza and recently, the widely publicised Listeriosis outbreak. The food safety discussions also included briefings and discussions on brine injection in poultry. During the Fifth Parliament, the Committee, jointly with the Portfolio Committee on Health, held various briefings including with sector experts to get reports from relevant Departments on Listeriosis and how Government was addressing the outbreak. The joint Committees further held into account the relevant Departments that constitute the Inter-Departmental Food Safety Coordinating Committee (IDFSCC) that was approved by different Ministers during the Fourth Parliament regarding the establishment of a Food Control Agency that will be responsible for all food safety issues in the country. The IDFSCC, which constitutes the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Health (DoH) and Trade and Industry (the dti), as well as the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS), which is an entity of the dti, after its establishment in 2013, formed a Technical Working Group to work on the establishment of the Food Control Agency.

The Committee has also been holding DAFF into account regarding effective and rigorous food safety and biosafety measures as failure to address food products safety may negatively impact agricultural production, the economy and employment in the sector. The poultry industry for example, has also been raising safety concerns about poultry products imports, particularly from Brazil. The different departments have made commendable improvements in coordinating activities to address food safety concerns including strengthening inspection services at ports of entry but have reported some technical challenges regarding the actual establishment of the Food Control Agency. Therefore, the latter is still work in progress that should be followed up by the Sixth Parliament.

1. **Financial and Technical Producer Support**

The Department has various farmer support programmes that include conditional grants such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/letsema, as well as the Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa (Mafisa), which provides micro loans of up to R100 000 to developing farmers. Impact assessment of the Department’s support programmes by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) showed that newly acquired land by previously disadvantaged individuals (PDIs) remain fallow, which implies that farmer support programmes are either inadequate or not yielding the desired impact; and some Government support packages tend to cause dependency. Fragmented and inadequate support to producers (including land reform beneficiaries) has been a challenge that has been highlighted since the Fourth Parliament, which then advocated for a ‘one-stop-shop facility’ for producer support whereby all the conditional grants and other financial support programmes of the Department are pooled and centrally managed to provide all the different kinds of services that farmers and land reform beneficiaries require, including smallscale producers in Forestry and Fisheries, who are not catered for. The Committee recommended that the proposed ‘one-stop-shop facility’ should be able to provide training and capacity building, extension and other technical support, different forms of mechanisation, and must meet funding requirements for the different categories of producers/entrepreneurs across all three sectors.

It was noted that fragmented support is not only between DAFF, its entities and provincial counterparts but across departments. Failure of CASP to provide the necessary support to land reform beneficiaries led to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) establishing a Recapitalisation and Development Programme (RECAP) to assist land reform beneficiaries. However, due to lack of intergovernmental relations and coordination between the two departments, little was achieved by all the funding instruments and in some cases, there was double-dipping by some beneficiaries. DAFF and the DRDLR for example, were supposed to establish a Framework for Inter-Departmental Cooperation, developing a database of land reform beneficiaries including support provided and monitoring implementation of interventions. However, poor coordination, role confusion, staff and budget shortages and inefficiencies resulted in major challenges for land reform beneficiaries, with post-settlement support and coordination ranking highest as a key challenge. Absence of a policy to guide producer support also resulted in fragmented utilisation of conditional grants, where the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Agriculture for example, is charging farmers R1 800 in order for them to receive support through the conditional grants. This means that poor farmers who really need the support but cannot afford R1 800 do not receive Government support.

The Committee emphasised the monitoring and evaluation of the funding instruments and support programmes; and the development of an integrated policy that will also include previously disadvantaged producers in Forestry and Fisheries. Monitoring and evaluation (M & E) particularly of conditional grants, remains one of DAFF’s major weaknesses that has been highlighted by the Committee and the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA), as well as the Department’s Internal Audit Committee. In its oversight visits, the Committee recognised that farmers, particularly land reform beneficiaries, needed training on skills that they have not acquired including business and financial management, assistance with access to markets as well as continuous technical support for their chosen ventures. Farmers and Members of the Committee have been equally raising concerns regarding the invisibility of Extension Officers in farming areas and lack of advisory and technical support to land reform beneficiaries. In areas where there are Extension Officers, some of the farmers still complained about their lack of skills (particularly farming business skills) despite interventions by DAFF through the Extension Recovery Plan (ERP) and the finalisation of the National Policy on Extension and Advisory Services. The implementing agents or strategic partners that were employed in all provinces to implement agricultural projects particularly land reform projects, were also not effective in capacitating farmers or beneficiaries in skills that they require to run successful businesses. Any benefits that were derived from such partnerships accrued to the agents/strategic partners but not beneficiaries.

To address the weaknesses and the fragmentation of producer support, DAFF was to develop an Integrated Development Finance Policy that was never finalised but reportedly incorporated into the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support. The development of the Comprehensive Producer Development Support Policy was initiated in 2013, while the Policy was eventually drafted in 2016. The Draft was presented to the Committee in May 2018, to which the Committee highlighted weaknesses and key issues that were not covered (e.g. integration of existing funding instruments including those residing in other departments). The Policy has since not been finalised and implemented, as is expected in the MTSF 2014-19. Parallel to the development of the Policy, DAFF, DRDLR and the Land Bank developed a Blended Finance Model, which was first presented to Parliament in October 2018 as a response to former President Zuma’s pronouncement in 2017, to commercialise 450 black farmers.

There is no clear link between the proposed Finance Model and the Comprehensive Producer Development Support Policy that is being developed by DAFF. However, DAFF has been transferring funds for the Blended Finance Model to the Land Bank since 2017/18 and in a recent briefing (March 2019) to joint Committees, both DAFF and Land Bank could not account on the utilisation of such funds for commercialisation of black farmers that have been identified by provinces. The DRDLR reported that it has not yet transferred funds to the Land Bank for the Model as it is still doing assessments of potential land reform farms for commercialisation. Therefore, further engagements with the two departments and the Land Bank on the Blended Finance Model are required; as well as on DAFF’s progress on the finalisation of the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support.

1. **Commercialisation of 450 Black Farmers**

Commercialisation of 450 black farmers by the end of the 2017/18 financial year was pronounced by former President Zuma during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) in February 2017. However, during further engagements with the Committee on the subject, DAFF informed the Committee that it will be impossible to commercialise 450 farmers (50 farmers per province) in one financial year. Therefore, the plan was to implement the commercialisation of the black farmers over a period of five years, which was to begin in the 2017/18 financial year but was later shifted to 2019/20. The Committee has since 2018 recommended that DAFF develops a Framework for the Commercialisation of Black Farmers and also requested a full list of the 450 (50 per province) black farmers that will be commercialised. While the Framework has not been submitted, the list of 450 farmers was submitted to the Committee towards the end of 2018 but it was incomplete as relevant information was not provided for some provinces. Instead of the Framework, DAFF together with the Land Bank, presented the Blended Finance Model, referred to in c) above, as an instrument for the commercialisation of black producers (inclusive of forestry and fisheries). Both Portfolio Committees (Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and Rural Development & Land Reform) held briefings with the two departments and the Land Bank including a joint Workshop on the Model, and have raised serious matters of concern that still needs to be addressed including the criteria for farmer/producer selection.

1. **Mechanisation**

Mechanisation is one of the biggest challenges among farmers and land reform beneficiaries. In terms of mechanisation, the Committee emphasised the development and provision of infrastructure across all three sectors including provision of production equipment and revitalisation of irrigation schemes. A number of challenges were raised regarding mechanisation particularly the provision and distribution of tractors and other farming implements in different provinces. In terms of the distribution of tractors and farming equipment, provinces are doing different things with some having provincial policies whilst some do not. In this regard, the Committee has been emphasising the development of a national policy to ensure uniformity and accountability. The Department, which has been developing a Draft Mechanisation Policy since the beginning of the Fifth Parliament, approved a National Mechanisation Framework in 2016. However, this was never implemented as the Department reported that the Framework has since been incorporated into the Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support that has been referred to on b) and c) above.

The country has various irrigation schemes mostly in the former homelands, from which communities previously derived livelihoods but some have since been left derelict. The revitalisation of these irrigation schemes has been a Government focus since 2007, however, revitalisation has been limited by financial resources in some cases. The NDP recognises that agriculture is the primary economic activity in rural areas and has the potential to create one million new jobs by 2030 by expanding irrigated agriculture. The NDP further specified increased infrastructure investments for the development of new irrigation systems in the Umzimvubu River Basin in the Eastern Cape and the Makhathini Flats in KwaZulu-Natal. The Makhathini Flats in KwaZulu-Natal including the Taung Irrigation Scheme in the North West have since been revitalised but there are still challenges with their utilisation, maintenance, management and water licensing. There has been no activity for the development of irrigation systems in the Umzimvubu River Basin in the Eastern Cape despite the identified potential for grain production in the area. For the greater part of the Fifth Parliament, DAFF reported on the revitalisation of the Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme in the Northern Cape. A Mechanisation Framework that will be included in the National Policy for Comprehensive Producer Development Support has been submitted to the Committee but a comprehensive report including total investments into the revitalisation of the latter Vaalharts Irrigation Scheme is outstanding.

1. **The Operation Phakisa**

The Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy initiative was launched in 2014 to explore and exploit the economic potential in the oceans, particularly, the oil and gas resources, transportation and fish farming. It was seen as an instrument through which the country could address poverty, inequality and unemployment. DAFF is the lead department in the implementation of the aquaculture component of the Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy. However, by the 2015/16 financial year, there were no specific financial resources that were allocated for aquaculture development although there were a number of initiatives (8 key initiatives) that were identified to spur the growth of the sector. The initiatives related to the creation of an enabling regulatory environment, funding support, increasing skills pool and awareness, improving access to markets, and improving both the number and productivity of new aquaculture farms. Approximately 24 aquaculture projects were to be selected and implemented through Operation Phakisa and by March 2016, nine projects were expected to be implemented as part of the initial phase of Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy. The Department has since reported that 32 aquaculture projects have been implemented as part of Operation Phakisa.

Following some successes in the implementation of Operation Phakisa: Oceans Economy, in 2016, Cabinet approved Operation Phakisa for Agriculture and Rural Development as an implementation model of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP)/ Revitalisation of the Agriculture and Agroprocessing Value Chain (RAAVC). As part of the Phakisa Programme, DAFF and DRDLR were requested by the National Treasury and DPME to rationalise and refocus agricultural support and rural development initiatives, which comes on the backdrop of the current fiscal constraints faced by the country and the results of various implementation and impact evaluations that have been conducted since 2013. This is to ensure streamlining of efforts to support smallholders to maximise efficiency and effectiveness and therefore, value for money. Further action was to discuss the alignment of provincial and national organisational structures with the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) and to address the implications for implementation. The Committee commended the development of Operation Phakisa for Agriculture and Rural Development, which is expected to address the duplication of activities between DAFF and DRDLR and ensure effective coordination and pooling of resources between the two Departments, Entities, Provinces and the private sector. However, DAFF reported to the Committee during the 2018/19 financial year that Operation Phakisa has not received additional funding from National Treasury and some of the funding for Phakisa programmes will be sourced from conditional grants.

1. **Job Creation**

Unemployment, a measure of economic development, is one of the factors affecting economic development in South Africa, particularly in rural areas. Given its labour-intensiveness and the ability to absorb unskilled and semi-skilled labour, agriculture has been purported as having great potential to assist Government in the fight against poverty and creation of jobs. The National Development Plan (NDP) and President Ramaphosa’s Economic Stimulus Package also recognise agriculture as a key job driver through the agroprocessing value chain. The NDP expects agriculture to create 1 million new jobs by 2030 through agroprocessing. Agroprocessing is a very important area across all three sectors with the highest potential to create not just jobs, but new entrepreneurs particularly from the thousands of unemployed agricultural graduates. However, its potential has not been fully tapped due to the fragmented nature of resources for implementation of agroprocessing and support to developing producers. Most agroprocessing projects remain under the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) instead of DAFF; and collaboration between the two departments is minimal.

The Committee held DAFF accountable on job creation through quarterly briefings on the MTSF targets; and further held briefings with external stakeholders particularly on the challenges (disease outbreaks, tariffs and cheap imports) that faced the poultry industry and the impact thereof on employment. Most job creation activities in DAFF are linked to the Expanded Public Works Programmes (EPWPs) such as LandCare and Working for Fisheries. LandCare also addresses Outcome 10 (rehabilitation of degraded natural resources). However, the Department has been unable to present comprehensive reports on the sustainability including impact on households, of EPWP jobs that were created in relation to invested funding as most are temporary. DAFF further aimed to create more sustainable jobs through the development of smallholder producers but this has not been fully achieved due to inadequate support particularly mechanisation and access to markets for these producers. In the first quarter of 2018, the agricultural sector shed a significant number of jobs and contributed to the first technical recession that the country experienced since 2009. Due to the seasonal nature of most jobs in agriculture, employment statistics fluctuate across quarters and also depending on external factors, for example, by the end of the fourth quarter of 2018, the agricultural sector was one of the sectors that recorded gains in employment.

1. **Climate Change and Disaster Management**

Climate change, which is rapidly emerging as one of the most acute environmental problems of the 21st century, exacerbates existing environmental, social and economic problems while bringing new challenges. It may put more pressure on the country’s scarce resources, with implications for agricultural production, forestry and sustainability of fisheries resources, as well as on employment and food security. Members of the Committee have taken part in parliamentary discussions on Climate Change and during the Fifth Parliament, the Chairperson of the Committee has attended some of the different United Nations (UN) Conferences of the Parties on Climate Change. The Committee has been holding the Department into account regarding its activities to raise awareness, particularly to farmers, mitigation and adaptation initiatives and the development of an integrated sectoral plan/strategy on climate change. To date, the Department has since developed the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plans for Agriculture and Forestry.

In recent years, South Africa has been more prone to natural disasters (droughts, floods and veld fires) that affected agriculture and forestry. Floods, and droughts, which are usually accompanied by high air temperatures, can also have a negative impact on fisheries resources. Climate change exacerbates the frequency and impact of such natural disasters e.g. the drought that hit the country in 2015, whose after effects are still prevalent in some provinces. Climate change will also have an impact on production seasons and the type of commodities that producers can farm with in some areas due to changes in rainfall patterns, temperatures, prevalence of pests and consequently, disease outbreaks. The Committee visited some of the disaster affected areas and held briefings with the Department on disaster response and management. The Committee consistently raised concerns with the Department’s slow and ineffective response to disasters that affect the sector; and highlighted that the Department focuses more on post-disaster response rather than mitigation and risk reduction through effective early warning systems. For example, some farmers, particularly smallholder farmers without insurance, are unable to recover after a disaster as disaster relief usually gets to them very late, if they get it at all.

1. **Disease Outbreaks**

In the past four years, the country has seen outbreaks of diseases of economic importance that had a negative impact on the agricultural sector in particular. These include foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), Rift Valley fever (RVF), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI – avian/bird flu), Fall Armyworm (FAW), Brucellosis, African Horse Sickness (AHS), citrus black spot (CBS), banana bunchy top, tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*), Oriental fruit fly and most recently, Listeriosis. The FMD and CBS led to bans of South African meat and livestock products and citrus exports, respectively, to the European Union (EU) and other regions. The HPAI and FAW, which led to revenue and job losses in the agricultural industry, are being constantly monitored. With briefings also from the industry, the Committee engaged intensely on disease outbreaks and how the matter was addressed. The Committee’s focus regarding the briefings on disease outbreaks has been on the regulatory frameworks and control measures locally, across borders and on ports of entry, including the role of the Department’s veterinary and extension services in disease awareness and prevention. South Africa’s status of FMD-free without vaccination was formally reinstated by the World Organisation for Animal Health (commonly known as the OIE) on 14 February 2014 and the ban on meat and livestock product exports was subsequently lifted. However, the ban on the country’s citrus exports due to CBS is still applicable in some EU countries. Most recently, the FMD outbreak in the Vhembe District of Limpopo was in the spotlight and the Department is working with the Province and affected farmers to control the outbreak and to prevent its spread to other areas, which might consequently lead to another extended ban of the country’s livestock products. China has already banned imports of all cloven hoofed animals and their products from South Africa; and DAFF plans to send a high level delegation to China to address the matter with the Chinese Department of Animal and Plant Quarantine during March 2019.

1. **Management of Fisheries Research and Surveillance/Patrol Vessels**

The Committee engaged the Department on the management of long-term contracts and service level agreements (SLAs) for the management of its Fisheries Vessels including the state of some of the vessels, for example, the Africana Research Vessel that was found by the South African Navy to be in a state of disrepair and needed to be replaced. The Committee was particularly concerned about the contracting process for vessel maintenance and regular assessment on the condition of the vessels; as well as old and ailing vessels such as the Africana, that was becoming too costly to repair. The Department has since October 2014, commissioned the services of the South African Maritime Safety Association (SAMSA) for the maintenance and management of the Fisheries Vessels. The Africana has since been repaired and is carrying out research activities.

1. **Fishing Rights Allocation (FRAP)**

Smallscale and artisanal fishers have through various forms of correspondence and Committee engagements, highlighted that they were not benefitting from the fishing rights allocation process (FRAP) as it favours the commercial fishery. Where rights were allocated to smallscale fishers, they were minimal, for a short period and were not accompanied by support programmes to ensure that the fishers derive livelihoods and economic benefits from such rights. The Committee engaged the Department on the subject and advocated for the provision of support to smallscale and artisanal fishers, and the implementation of the Smallscale Fisheries (SSF) Policy that was concluded and approved in 2012 (see l) below). One of the issues that was also raised was fronting and paper quotas, where black faces or names were reportedly used by commercial companies to gain rights without providing any benefits to those black people. The Committee recommended that the fishing rights allocation process needs to be audited and monitored and transgressors penalised and brought to book; and should also include smallscale fishers. The Department has since reported that it will be appointing 2 legal counsels through the State Attorney and an external agency will be appointed to monitor and observe the FRAP process. The Department further reported in November 2018 that out of the twelve sectors that are due for re-allocation in terms of Section 18 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) for FRAP 2020, five will also be for smallscale fishers. The five sectors are hake landline (100%), line fish (50%), white mussels (100%), oysters (100%) and squid (25%).

1. **Implementation of the Smallscale Fisheries (SSF) Policy**

The Smallscale Fisheries (SSF) Policy was adopted by Cabinet in June 2012. It provides legal recognition to smallscale fishers and aims to provide rights to smallscale fishing communities and to ensure their equitable access to marine resources. However, the policy could not be implemented before amending the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA), (Act No. 18 of 1998), a process that was undertaken in 2013. The resultant Marine Living Resources Amendment Bill was signed into law in 2014, after which DAFF held public consultations on the Regulations for the implementation of the SSF Policy. The Policy was expected to be implemented by February 2016 through a new fishing rights allocation process (FRAP) that will include smallscale fishers, who were previously excluded. The Department finalised the Regulations for the implementation of the SSF Policy in 2015. However, after requests from stakeholders, the Minister granted an extension for the registration of fishing communities as smallscale fishers. As a result, the SSF Policy could not be implemented during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years due to additional extensions to the period for registration of fishing communities. The implementation of the SSF Policy was further shifted to the end of 2017/18, which did not happen as DAFF cited delays in finalising appeal processes in the coastal provinces. It is during the 2018/19 financial year (last year of the Fifth Parliament) that the implementation of the SSF Policy eventually took place through the training of fishers and registration of cooperatives; as well as allocation of fishing rights for 15 years on a zero-fee basis to two cooperatives in the Northern Cape Province. The Department also reported that it was ready to allocate rights to fishing communities in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape Provinces; and was finalising appeals in the Western Cape Province.

1. **Sector Transformation**

Transformation in all three sectors that falls within DAFF has been seen as slow and at times, failing. Through various briefings with the Department, forestry and fisheries stakeholders including the Sector Transformation Charter Council for Forestry, it emerged that previously disadvantaged producers were poorly represented particularly in the forestry and fisheries businesses; and emerging producers across all three sectors were finding it difficult to integrate into the formal supply chains and to enter the export markets as most were not receiving the necessary assistance from the Department. It was only towards the end of the Fifth Parliament (October 2018) that the Committee received an update on the AgriBEE Fund, which is responsible for promoting entry and ensuring the participation of black businesses in the entire agricultural value chain with a particular focus on equity and enterprise development. The AgriBEE Fund, to which DAFF transfers funds on an annual basis, is administered by the Land Bank, which accounts to the Minister of Finance. The Committee voiced their dissatisfaction with the limited transformation progress and the report from the Land Bank that lacked detail on transformation activities.

For Fisheries, transformation issues are in respect of fishing rights applications and allocation processes as outlined under k) FRAP above; as well as lack of resources and support to enable full participation of smallscale fishers in the value chain. In cases where previously disadvantaged individuals or groups received fishing rights, it was reported that they could not use them as they did not have fishing equipment and in most cases, to make ends meet, they were forced to “sell” those rights to companies with equipment. Another issue was the inability to eke out a living by coastal communities who live adjacent to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) from which they historically used to derive livelihoods. The SSF Policy was approved to address some of the challenges, therefore, monitoring of its implementation including support that is provided to smallscale fishers is very essential.

With respect to the Forestry sector, most issues came into the spotlight in 2017 during the Committee’s Extended Public Hearings on the National Forests Amendment Bill. In all five provinces that were visited, communities who live in forested areas and/or adjacent to commercial plantations relayed the dire conditions under which they live including those who are land reform beneficiaries that are leasing their land to commercial forestry companies (plantations) with the promise of beneficiation through rental revenue. Most of these communities reported that they have never received any compensation and few community members are employed as labourers in the commercial plantations. Smallholder producers (small forestry growers) and other local contractors indicated that the industry is monopolised by commercial plantations who will give substantial contracts to white-owned companies instead of previously disadvantaged local contractors. Small forestry growers also indicated that they were not getting any support from DAFF and DAFF was not properly regulating the commercial industry. Through various engagements with the Committee on transformation, the Forest Sector Charter Council also highlighted the slow pace of transformation in the forestry sector. The Charter Council also presented interventions to ensure that commercial companies comply with transformation legislation and DAFF was carrying out its regulatory responsibility.

**4.1 Challenges encountered during Committee briefings**

**Technical/operational challenges**

* The Fifth Parliament experienced persistent challenges regarding the late submission of briefing documents and presentations by the Department. More often than not, when presentations are sent on time, a new and changed presentation will be distributed to the Committee the evening before, or on the day of the meeting. This compromised the intensity with which the Committee can engage with the subject or topic on which they are briefed by the Department or any other entity or stakeholder.
* Large delegations that are brought to Parliament for briefings when mostly one or two people will be talking. Despite the large delegations, the Department relied on parliamentary officials and Committee reports for following up and responding to issues that are raised by the Committee in meetings or on oversight visits.
* Inability to timeously validate performance information by the Department for quarterly reporting had a negative impact on the Committee’s oversight of the Department’s quarterly performance.
* Poor monitoring and evaluation of planned activities including utilisation of conditional grants that are transferred to provinces by the Department.

**Content-related matters**

* The Department often submit incomplete information to the Committee or does not submit the specific information that has been requested by the Committee. For example, information on MTSF targets, requested reports on specific issues, project profiles for oversight purposes.
* The quality of documents including official reports that are introduced/tabled in Parliament, e.g. Annual Performance Plans and Annual Reports, always have errors and omissions as in most cases they contain information that has been cut and pasted from old documents. The concern is that even when the Committee points out such issues, no effort is taken to ensure that new documents are corrected, quality checked and devoid of such errors.
* Failure by the Department, including some of its entities, to effectively address repeat audit outcomes of its annual performance as highlighted by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). These include the setting of targets that are not SMART in its Annual Performance Plan (APPs) and some targets that are not aligned with performance indicators and/or strategic objectives.

**5. LEGISLATION REFERRED AND PROCESSED**

The following pieces of legislation were referred to the Committee and processed during the Fifth Parliament:

| **Year** | **Name of Legislation** | **Tagging** | **Objectives** | **Completed/Not Completed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2014/15** | Performing Animals Protection Amendment Bill [B9 – 2015] | Section 75 | To amend the Performing Animals Protection Act, 1935, so as to insert certain  definitions; to provide for the designation of a National Licensing Officer; to  provide for a procedure for the application for a licence to exhibit, train or use of  an animal for safeguarding; to provide for the functions of a National Licensing  Officer; to provide for the issuance of licences; to provide for an appeals process;  and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Completed |
|  | Plant Improvement Bill [B8 – 2015] | Section 76 | To provide for the registration of certain types of business relating to plants and propagating material intended for cultivation and sale and the registration of premises on or from which that business is conducted; quality standards for plants and propagating material intended for cultivation and sale and conditions of sale of plants and propagating material; a system for national listing of plant varieties; the evaluation of plant varieties in order to ensure value if there is doubt in respect of the value for cultivation and use of plant varieties intended for  cultivation and sale; import and export control of plants and propagating material; and a system for different types of schemes for plants and propagating material; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Completed |
|  | Plant Breeders’ Rights Bill [B11 – 2015] | Section 76 | To provide for a system whereunder plant breeders’ rights relating to varieties of  certain kinds of plants may be granted; for the requirements that have to be  complied with for the grant of such rights; for the scope and protection of such  rights; and for the grant of licenses in respect of the exercise of such rights; and to provide for matters connected therewith**.** | Completed |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **2015/16** | None |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **2016/17** | Liquor Products Amendment Bill [B10-2016] | Section 75 | To amend the Liquor Products Act, 1989, so as to insert certain definitions and to  amend and delete others; to provide for the renaming and reconstitution of the  Wine and Spirit Board and to limit its powers; to provide for requirements  regarding beer, traditional African beer and other fermented beverages; to repeal  a provision in respect of the authorisations regarding certain alcoholic products; to empower the Minister to designate a person to issue export certificates; to align certain provisions with the Constitution; to extend the Minister’s power to make regulations; to provide gender-equal terminology; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Completed |
|  | National Forests Amendment Bill [B11- 2016] | Section 76 | To amend the National Forests Act, 1998, so as to provide for clear definitions of  natural forests and woodlands; to provide for public trusteeship of the nation’s  forestry resources; to increase the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management; to increase the measures provided for in the Act to control and remedy deforestation; to provide for appeals against decisions taken under  delegated powers and duties; to reinforce offences and penalties; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Completed |
|  | National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill [B22-2016] | Proposed Section 76 | To amend the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998, so as to amend and insert certain definitions; to provide for the facilitation of the formation of fire protection associations by a municipality or a traditional council; to compel a municipality, state owned enterprise, public entity or other organ of state which owns land to join the fire protection associations; to extend the powers of entry, search, seizure and arrest to peace officers and traditional leaders; to amend the title of the Act to National Veldfire Act; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Withdrawn by Minister |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **2017/18** | Plant Health (Phytosanitary) Bill [B7-2017] | Proposed Section 76 | To provide for phytosanitary measures to prevent the introduction, establishment  and spread of regulated pests in the Republic; to provide for the control of  regulated pests; to provide for regulation of the movement of plants, plant products and other regulated articles into, within and out of the Republic; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Withdrawn by Minister |
|  | Agricultural Product Standards Amendment Bill [B21-2017] | Section 76 | To amend the Agricultural [Product](http://www.polity.org.za/topic/product) Standards Act, 1990, so as to insert definitions and substitute others; to provide for auditing of a [product](http://www.polity.org.za/topic/product) for [management control systems](http://www.polity.org.za/topic/management-control-systems); to make provision for setting of tariffs by assignees on a cost-recovery basis; to make further provisions for Minister to make regulations pertaining to audit  and  management  control  [systems](http://www.polity.org.za/topic/systems-company);  and  to  provide  for  matters  connected therewith. | Withdrawn by Minister |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **2018/19** | Animal Protection Amendment Bill [B4 – 2018] | Proposed Section 76 | To amend the Animals Protection Act, 1962, so as to substitute the definition of ‘‘animal’’ and insert definitions for ‘‘cosmetic’’ and ‘‘premises’’; to correct the listing of definitions; to provide for new offences related to the testing of a cosmetic, or ingredient of a cosmetic, on an animal; and for the failure to make sufficient space in an appropriate environment available to an animal; to increase the penalty applicable to an offence and to provide for liability where an offence is committed by a company; to provide for a court to make an order regarding the welfare of an animal prior to conviction where a person is charged with an offence in terms of this Act; to remove the limit placed on an award for damages after conviction; to provide for the recovery of reasonable expenses in relation to an animal prior to conviction where a person is charged with an offence in terms of this Act; to provide for the qualification requirements of an officer contemplated in section 8(1) of this Act; to empower the Minister to make regulations setting standards for the testing of any matter, other than a cosmetic, on an animal and to increase the maximum penalties that the Minister may set by regulation, and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Not processed |
|  | Aquaculture Development Bill [B22 – 2018] | Section 76 | To establish an Intergovernmental Authorisations Committee; to provide for the establishment of a national aquaculture intergovernmental forum; to provide for the establishment of provincial aquaculture intergovernmental forums; to provide for the establishment of the national aquaculture sector liaison forum; to provide for the appointment of aquaculture extension officers; to provide for the appointment of specialists on contract; to provide for the recognition of aquaculture sector associations; to provide for the establishment of a national reference laboratory for aquatic animal diseases and food safety; to provide for the establishment of national and provincial aquaculture development funds; to provide for the adoption and content of national and provincial aquaculture development strategies; to provide for the establishment of aquaculture development zones; to provide for the establishment of national and provincial aquaculture information systems; to provide for licensing authorities; to provide for  the application, transfer, amendment, renewal and cancellation of aquaculture licences and permits; to provide for integrated aquaculture authorisations; to provide for the setting of water quality objectives and standards for aquaculture; to provide for the protection of aquatic environment; to provide for the development of a national aquatic animal health programme relating to health, welfare, safety and quality of aquatic organisms and products; to prohibit the import, export and movement of aquaculture organisms and products without permits; to provide for the transformation of the aquaculture sector; to provide for the designation of aquaculture inspectors; to provide for the powers of aquaculture inspectors; to provide for offences and penalties; to provide for appeals; to provide for ownership of aquaculture organisms and products; to provide for delegation; to provide for the making of regulations; to provide for savings, repeal and amendment of legislation; to provide for transitional arrangements; to limit state liability; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | Not processed |

**5.1 Challenges encountered in the processing of Legislation**

**Technical/operational challenges that delayed legislation and/or complicated the processing thereof:**

* Tabling or introduction of Bills by the Department that have not been finalised or approved, resulting in the unavailability of copies of the Bills for processing by the Committee or such Bills being withdrawn later.
* Insufficient information from the Department on the summary of the introduced Bill particularly regarding public consultation and/or stakeholders that have been consulted.
* Failure by the Department to act timeously on Court judgements against some of its legislation and as a result, will end up tabling such legislation in Parliament a few months before the Court deadline and expect Parliament to rush the processing of the Bill. One of such Bills was the Performing Animals Protection Amendment (PAPA) Bill, to which the Committee recommended that the Department ask the Court for an extension of the deadline, which was granted.
* Tabling or introduction of legislation without financial resources to implement it.
* Reliance on Parliament for public consultation by the Department although it is mandated to do public consultations on all legislation before it is finalised and tabled in Parliament. As a result, the Committee had to hold extended public hearings to ensure that the public participates and makes inputs in the legislation that is being processed e.g. the National Forests Amendment Bill.
* Introduction of Bills towards the end of the Fifth Parliament, thus not giving Parliament sufficient time to process the Bill e.g. the Aquaculture Development Bill.

**Content-related challenges**

* Introduction of poor quality Bills that have not been quality assured by the Department, in most cases, just to comply with its Annual Performance Plan, thus necessitating Parliament to do extensive content review including grammatical corrections on the introduced Bill.
* The Committee does not have sector-specific support for the Forestry sector.

1. **OVERSIGHT TRIPS UNDERTAKEN**

In addition to briefings and public hearings and to further strengthen its legislative mandate and to oversee service delivery, the Committee undertook oversight visits to various government-funded projects in provinces and also visited some of the entities of the Department to ensure that what was presented in Parliament was in fact happening on the ground. The following oversight trips were undertaken during the Fifth Parliament:

| **Date** | **Area Visited** | **Objective** | **Recommendations** | **Status of Report** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **23 September 2014** | Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd – Eastern Cape Province | To get a better understanding of the situation and to determine the Department’s progress regarding deregistration of the Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd as an entity. | 1. DAFF should ensure that Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd is not closed but deregistered as an entity and the Service Centre incorporated into the ARC. 2. DAFF should ensure that the Ncera Service Centre continues to assist the surrounding farmers and communities including the Eastern Cape Province with livestock improvement and food production programmes. 3. DAFF and the ARC should develop a Master Plan that will inform how the ARC will incorporate Ncera Service Centre within its livestock improvement programmes. The Plan must include budget allocation to the ARC that will assist the programme for the benefit of the Province. 4. The Eastern Cape Province and the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality should convene an urgent meeting with the community members that are invading the state farms, particularly those in Mr Matinise’s farm to address and verify the claims against the land by some of the people. 5. The Portfolio Committee must convene a meeting with the Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Rural Development and Land Reform for them to account on the delay in addressing the plight of the farm dwellers and the resettled farmers including resolving the resultant conflicts between the stakeholders. | Adopted |
| **24 – 26 November 2014** | KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN) | The purpose of the oversight visit was to oversee:   * the implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative that was introduced by the President in 2013 to address immediate household food insecurity; * support that is given to smallholder and subsistence producers for enhanced food production at national and household level through programmes such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/Letsema; * the state of readiness for the * implementation of the Smallscale Fisheries Policy, which is aimed at benefiting previously disadvantaged coastal communities some of whom rely mainly on fisheries resources for livelihood; * the effectiveness in which the Department’s Mechanisation Programme funds were utilised in KZN and to determine whether the Mechanisation Programme was making a positive difference in the lives of people on the ground – value for money; and progress made on the development of infrastructure such as irrigation schemes, fences, farm buildings, roads, etc. | 1. To ensure strengthened collaboration between DAFF, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Local Traditional Leaders and the Local Municipalities to ensure successful implementation of the Fetsa Tlala programme in KZN province. In this regard, DAFF must submit to the Committee the reportedly existing Plan for the coordination of activities between the Department, provinces and its entities within two weeks of the adoption of the report by the National Assembly. 2. To liaise with the Minister of Environmental Affairs regarding environmental laws and regulations that prevent fishing communities from deriving livelihoods from the coast and also restrict their economic development from coastal resources including wildlife such as hippos from iSimangaliso Wetland Park that damage their properties. Report back to the Committee within two months of the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 3. To ensure that DAFF submit to Parliament a reviewed monitoring and evaluation (M & E) Plan for conditional grants including an organogram of M & E personnel, their allocation to provinces and monitoring schedule within one month of the adoption of the report by the National Assembly. 4. To ensure that DAFF engages with the fishing communities of Kosi Bay and Nkundusi to address all their challenges as has been raised in this report and with Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife regarding assault and harassment of fishing communities in the two areas. DAFF should report back to the Committee within one month of the adoption of the report by the National Assembly. 5. To liaise with the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform to ensure that the land claims that were lodged by the Kosi Bay and Nkundusi fishing communities during the first restitution phase are followed up and addressed as a matter of urgency. Report back to the Committee within one month of the adoption of the report by the National Assembly. 6. To ensure that DAFF further engages all KZN fishing communities regarding the implementation of the Smallscale Fisheries Policy, while ensuring that fishing rights allocation to these communities is fast tracked. 7. Ensure that the KZN Provincial DARD conducts a feasibility study on the provision of an irrigation scheme to the Senzokuhle and other related projects that need irrigation in order to be more productive. 8. Ensure that the Provincial DARD effectively implements and provides assistance with market access for the Fetsa Tlala projects in the province and also ensures market access for other agricultural projects. A plan in this regard should be submitted to the Committee within three months of the adoption of the report by the National Assembly. | Adopted |
| **03 – 04 February 2015** | Western CapeProvince | The objectives of the oversight were to:   * oversee the operations in the Fisheries Management Branch, a programme within the Department that is responsible for managing the development and sustainable use of South Africa’s marine and fisheries resources as well as to protect the integrity and quality of the country’s marine and coastal ecosystems; * oversee the state and operations of the Department’s fishing vessels; and oversee the operational activities of the Fisheries Branch with respect to physical inspections of fishing vessels from the sea. | 1. DAFF should strengthen relationships and formalise collaborations with other law enforcement agencies to prevent and address illegal activities and continued poaching that is happening along the South African coastline. During its briefing, the Department assured the Committee that it is collaborating with other law enforcement agencies including local communities and conservation bodies. In this regard, the Department must report back to the Committee with details of such collaborations including the areas and communities involved throughout the South African coast, by June 2015. 2. DAFF should present a report to the Committee before the end of April 2015 on its catch inspection programmes for fishing vessels from the sea in all harbours and slipways, providing reasons for the selective inspection of fishing vessels from the sea, where inspections were only done at certain times of the day and for certain species particularly at Millers Point Slipway and in Kalk Bay, which were visited by the Committee on 04 February 2015. In this regard, the Department must also provide full details of officials who are supposed to do the inspections on these vessels and other Departments or agencies that are involved in the process. 3. DAFF should present a strong business plan to the National Treasury for an additional funding allocation for Aquaculture Development, which forms part of Operation Phakisa and is not funded, yet has potential for revenue generation and job creation. The Department should report back to the Committee on this by June 2015. 4. Ensure that the Africana is sailing by the end of February 2015 as reported during the visit, so that it can serve its purpose in fisheries research and monitoring of fish stocks. | Adopted |
| **20 – 24 July 2015** | Limpopo Province (Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Capricorn District Municipalities) | The purpose of the oversight visit was to oversee:   * the implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) through the development of commodity value chains; * the implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative and support that is given to smallholder and subsistence producers to enhance food production at national and household level through programmes such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/letsema; * enquire into inland aquaculture development; and * the management of community forestry plantations and benefits that are derived from these plantations by the communities. | 1. To ensure that DAFF and Limpopo DARD submit to the Committee a detailed written report on the Mapfura-Makhura Incubator that is located at Tompi Seleka Agricultural College. The report must provide details of all departments and/or agencies that are involved in the project including their contributions, roles and responsibilities; reasons for the project being non-operational; management of the project and future plans. DAFF should report to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 2. To ensure strengthened collaboration between DAFF, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, DRDLR, Local Traditional Leaders and the Local Municipalities to ensure successful implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative and provision of access roads to agricultural areas in Limpopo Province. 3. To engage with the Department of Public Enterprise to ensure that Eskom rolls out the educational and awareness campaigns that are planned for Limpopo to other provinces to ensure that farmers receive advice on better electricity usage and suitable equipment use. DAFF should report back to the Committee within three months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 4. To engage with the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform to ensure that the land claim challenges on forestry plantations such as that of the Rossbach CPA, are followed up and addressed as a matter of urgency. In this regard, DAFF should submit a progress report detailing progress with the acquisition of the title deed by the CPA, verification of assets and beneficiaries at the Rossbach Plantation, addressing of vandalism and the response to the use of the Plantation’s facilities by DAFF. Report should be submitted to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 5. To engage with the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform to ensure that potential commercial farmers such as those of the Nwanedi Cluster and the Nguni Stud Breeder at Capricorn District are assisted with the acquisition of state farms through land reform. Report back to the Committee within three months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 6. Ensure effective implementation of Fetsa Tlala by the Limpopo DARD including provision of assistance with market access for the Fetsa Tlala projects in the Province. A plan in this regard, that also shows linkage of the programme to the APAP, should be submitted to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 7. Ensure that DAFF and the Limpopo DARD submit a plan to the Committee that details how the Province is going to address farmers’ challenges associated with market access and transportation of produce within three months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 8. Ensure that DAFF and Limpopo DARD submit a detailed report on the Phetwane Aquaculture Project, which must also detail why the Presidential project has collapsed and the plans to revive it. Report to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 9. Ensure that DAFF and Limpopo DARD submit, within two months of the adoption of this report by the National Assembly, a detailed report on the Kopano Disabled Cooperative and Government investment in the Cooperative since its inception. | Adopted |
| **14 – 18 September 2015** | Eastern Cape Province (OR Tambo, Amathole, Cacadu District Municipality and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality) | The purpose of the oversight visit was to oversee:   * smallscale fisheries and aquaculture development (including Operation Phakisa projects); * the management of confiscated fisheries resources; * the Kaonafatso ya Dikgomo Livestock Improvement projects and how these projects are supported by DAFF; * the state of readiness for the implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP), plans for the implementation of the APAP and commodity value chains that the Province will be focusing on in line with APAP; as well as * an overview of CASP implementation in the Province. | 1. To ensure that DAFF and Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) submit to the Committee a detailed written report on the plans to revitalise the Mthatha Dam Hatchery. The report should include what has been done so far, out of the R2 million transfer by DAFF, how much has been spent since the beginning of the current financial year and how is DAFF planning to monitor the project. 2. As the Eastern Cape Province is receiving a large allocation from conditional grants, ensure that DAFF and DRDAR submit to the Committee a detailed written report on how conditional grants are utilised in the Province and the impact they have on the lives of the people of the Eastern Cape. DAFF should report to the Committee within a month after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 3. Engage with the Minister of Environmental Affairs to address the concerns raised by fishing communities that are prevented from fishing in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as fishing is the only source from which these communities derive their livelihoods. 4. Ensure that DAFF and Eastern Cape DRDAR submit a detailed report on how both departments will assist the projects and address concerns raised by the Committee on the Coza Maize Project and Ndyebo Farming Trust. Report to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 5. Ensure strengthened collaboration between DAFF, the Industrial Development Zones (IDZs) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the alignment of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan with other government policies such as the National Development Plan (NDP). 6. Engage with the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform to ensure that the land claim challenges on coastal areas including those reported in the Port St Johns and Dwesa-Cwebe areas are addressed. Report should be submitted to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 7. Engage with the Coza Maize Cooperative and the community at large, most of whose members are unable to engage in farming as a result of a R1 800 that they are supposed to pay to get assistance from the Provincial Department. Report back to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 8. Ensure effective implementation of Fetsa Tlala Initiative by the Eastern Cape DRDAR including provision of assistance with market access for Fetsa Tlala and other projects in the Province. A plan in this regard, that also shows linkage of the programme to the APAP, should be submitted to the Committee within two months after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 9. DAFF together with all provinces, ensure that there is a standardised financial and technical support particularly mechanisation that is provided to famers in all Provinces. DAFF should also ensure that farmers that are assisted are able to sustain themselves and after a specified period, are able to leave the support system to enable new famers to enter the system. 10. DAFF present to the Committee a progress report on the development of Agri-Parks in the Province within 30 days after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. 11. DAFF engage with Provinces and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform on the recruitment of Extension Officers including the review of Norms and Standards for Extension Officers. A progress report should be presented to the Committee 30 days after the adoption of this report by the National Assembly. | Adopted |
| **3 November 2015** | Astral Chicken Processing Plant in Phisantekraal, Western Cape Province | The purpose of the oversight visit was to empower and prepare Members of the Committee for the planned Workshop on Food Security and Food Safety, scheduled to take place in Parliament from 2 – 3 February 2015. | 1. The Committee observed that more information is needed for the Members to fully understand certain aspects of food safety including chicken brining and its impact on human health, and agreed that an expert input on food safety is needed for the planned Workshop. 2. The delegation agreed that the oversight visit will serve as a point of reference in assisting Members of the Committee to have a better understanding of issues around food safety. | Adopted. |
| **02 December 2016** | Gauteng Province (Onderstepoort Biological Products (OBP) and Agricultural Research Council (ARC) | * Investigate the concerns that were raised by the South African Veterinary Council (SAVC) on timeous availability of vaccines some of which are only manufactured by OBP, which has a negative impact on animal health particularly during disease outbreaks. * Oversee progress on the establishment of a new state-of-the-art foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) vaccine manufacturing facility at the ARC-OVI. | 1. Ensure that a strong business case and funding requests are submitted to National Treasury for the OBP, which is a National Key Point, to get the necessary funding to fully upgrade and modernise its facilities. Report back to the Committee by 14 March 2017. 2. Establish preferential procurement policies for local products and encourage provincial departments and local governments to source animal vaccines from the OBP. Report on this to the Committee by 14 March 2017. 3. DAFF and OBP should provide the Committee with the list of provinces that are currently not buying vaccines from the OBP; by 24 January 2017. 4. DAFF and the ARC should submit to the Committee the copy of the submission for additional funding to the National Treasury for the Foot-and-mouth Disease (FMD) Facility. Submit copy to the Committee by 24 January 2017. 5. The ARC should submit to the Committee a maintenance plan including responsible personnel for the new incinerator. This should be submitted to the Committee by 24 January 2017. | Adopted |
| **26 – 31 March 2017** | Mpumalanga Province | The purpose of the joint oversight visit was to oversee the implementation of concurrent activities and/or cross-cutting policy issues by the two Government Departments, namely, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Women in the Presidency, as well as the Commission for Gender Equality in the Mpumalanga Province | 1. During each 2017/18 Quarterly Report briefing that DAFF will have with Parliament, it should continuously provide progress reports on all the projects that were visited by the Committees during the oversight visit to Mpumalanga. 2. DAFF should submit a progress report on the establishment of the Border Management Agency and the refurbishment of the Lebombo International Border Fence between South Africa and Mozambique, which plays a role in the control of FMD. Report to Parliament by the end of October 2017. 3. DAFF, DARDLEA and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) should submit to Parliament a comprehensive report on all Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) farms in Mpumalanga including beneficiary details, strategic partners and criteria used to select them, previous and current support provided by each Department and current activities in, and/or plans for, the farms. Report should be submitted in Parliament by the end of October 2017. 4. The Minister should ensure that the Mpumalanga DARDLEA submits to Parliament, comprehensive reports on Agri-Parks in Mpumalanga, the Fortune 40 Youth Incubator Programme (including details on incubators and incubatees) and the Marapyane College of Agriculture (its refurbishment including costs thereof and new plans). Reports should be submitted by the end of October 2017. 5. DAFF should submit to Parliament by the end of October 2017, the Norms and Standards for the Draft National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Support that were approved by its Executive Committee (EXCO) in March 2017; and also provide progress report on the development of the Policy, which is expected to address the anomalies that currently exist in the support that is given to smallholder producers across provinces. 6. DAFF and DARDLEA should develop plans for gender mainstreaming to facilitate maximum participation of women in all its programmes and further ensure that all its buildings, project facilities and other structures are user-friendly and accessible to people with physical disabilities. The plans should be submitted to Parliament by the end of November 2017. | Adopted |
| **21 June 2017** | Knysna, Western Cape Province | The objectives of the visit were to assess the impact on farmers and farm workers, of the fires that broke out in the Garden Route area of the Western Cape; assess the extent of damage to farms and agricultural infrastructure; and determine how Government is responding to the disaster. | 1. DAFF, including other relevant Departments such as DRDLR and COGTA should finalise the disaster assessment report to enable Government to release funds from the Emergency Fund to ensure provision of assistance particularly to affected famers to safeguard food security.      1. DAFF should present to the Committee, a progress report on the assistance that has been given to affected farmers before the end of October 2017. 2. The Minister should ensure that there are enough resources and capacity for DAFF to effectively implement the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (Act No. 101 of 1998), which mandates, inter alia, that DAFF ensures that all property owners create firebreaks and further monitors this to mitigate and prevent the spread of veld and forest fires. Plans in this regard should be submitted to Parliament by the end of November 2017. | Adopted |
| **10 – 15 September 2017** | North West Province | The purpose of the joint oversight visit was to oversee:   1. The implementation of concurrent activities and/or cross-cutting policy issues by the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Women in the Presidency and the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE); 2. Progress regarding the development of Agri-Parks and implementation of Agri-Park linked projects; 3. The implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) through the development of commodity value chains; 4. Implementation of the Fetsa Tlala food production initiative and support that is given to smallholder and subsistence producers to enhance food production at national and household level through programmes such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP) and Ilima/letsema; 5. Aquaculture development; and 6. Support provided to smallholder producers and to women’s projects.   In addition, the Portfolio Committee on Women in the Presidency’s aims were:   1. To assess how matters related to complaints from civil society are dealt with at the Commission for Gender Equality’s (CGE) provincial office. 2. To also assess the special programmes and the role of the Office on the Status of Women within the Department of Social Development in the North West Province. (The delegation also intended to attend the Commission for Gender Equality’s legal clinic in the province.) | 1. The provincial department of READ should submit to Parliament by the end of November 2017, a comprehensive written report of interventions on all outstanding issues with a time-framed Action Plan to address the challenges that have been observed and other issues that were highlighted by the delegation during the oversight visit including the use of Agridelight as a service provider for all projects. The Action Plan should also show how remedial actions are linked with APAP/RAAVC and the MTSF. The report has since been submitted. 2. READ should submit to Parliament by the end of June 2018, the list of the 50 black farmers that will be commercialised; and in the absence of a National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Support, READ should develop an Exit Strategy Plan for all the projects that it supports particularly the commercialisation of 50 black farmers’ project. 3. DAFF should submit to Parliament, by the end of June 2018, the list (with full details) of the 450 black farmers that are going to be commercialised during 2017/18 in all provinces including a 10-year plan on how these farmers will be assisted. 4. DAFF should submit to Parliament by the end of July 2018, an Action Plan on how it is assisting, or plans to assist, smallholder producers with market access in all provinces. | Adopted |
| **13 – 17 August 2018** | Free State Province | The purpose of the oversight visit was to oversee the implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative and status of projects that have been funded through conditional grants such as the Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme (CASP), which is also used to fund Fetsa Tlala; as well as Ilima/Letsema; implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) through the development of commodity value chains; development of inland aquaculture in Free State; development and status of irrigation schemes; progress regarding the development of Agri-Parks and implementation of projects that are linked to Agri-Parks; support that is provided to smallholder producers and land reform beneficiaries; and availability and status of mobile veterinary clinics in the Province. | The Minister to ensure that:   * 1. DAFF and the Free State DARD submit to Parliament by the end of October 2018, an Action Plan on resolving challenges that were identified in all the projects that were visited by the Portfolio Committee in the Free State Province. In addition, the Action Plan should comprehensively detail how the projects will be assisted; and must have time frames and an Exit Strategy for each project.   2. The Free State DARD submit a comprehensive report on all Implementing Agents that have been used by the Department to implement and manage projects in the Province. The report should include the terms of contract with the Department, the Agents’ responsibilities and all funds that have been disbursed to them including the breakdown on the utilisation of such funds. The report should be submitted to Parliament before the end of October 2018.   3. The Free State DARD submit a report in Parliament on how the agricultural mandate and activities in particular, are coordinated in the rural development space within the Province. Submit report before the end of October 2018.   4. DAFF sends its Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the Quality Assurance teams to investigate work that has been done at Woodbridge Irrigation Scheme. In addition, DAFF and the Free State Provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development should submit to Parliament detailed reports with financial breakdown on Woodbridge Irrigation Scheme by the end of October 2018.      * 1. DAFF and the Free State DARD submit to Parliament detailed reports with financial breakdown on Fezile Dabi Fisheries Project and Black Survival Organisation Primary Cooperative before the end of October 2018.   2. The Free State DARD submit to Parliament the Concept Document for the establishment of the Vrede Dairy Project, the Beneficiation Model and a comprehensive report with financial breakdown; as well as a Turn-around Strategy for the Vrede Dairy Project before the end of November 2018.      * 1. The Free State DARD submit a report before the end of October 2018 on the PLAS farms including the status of leases and rental amounts that beneficiaries pay to DRDLR.   2. The Agricultural Research Council (ARC) visits Motsumi Meadows to do a soil analysis for the suitability of the farm for soya bean production. DAFF should provide feedback to Parliament by the end of October 2018.   3. DAFF and the Free State DARD monitor and evaluate the working conditions of employees in the semi-commercial farms that are supported by Government to assess whether labour laws are being followed and adhered to. Report on this by the end of October 2018.   4. DAFF submits to Parliament an Action Plan on how Aquaculture projects including those that form part of Operation Phakisa, are coordinated between DAFF and provinces. The Plan should also outline specific activities and resources with which DAFF assists provinces particularly in those areas without expertise in Aquaculture. The Action Plan should be submitted before the end of October 2018. | Adopted by PC on 27 November 2018 |
| **11 – 12 October 2018** | Land Bank in Gauteng Province | The objectives of the Committee’s oversight visit were to:   * Receive a comprehensive briefing from the Land Bank and DAFF on the Blended Funding Model and its budgetary implications; * Have extensive engagements with the Land Bank on comprehensive financial support to emerging farmers particularly previously disadvantaged farmers; * Oversee the Land Bank’s transformation activities through the utilisation of the AgriBEE Fund; and * Visit some of the agri-businesses to which the Land Bank has invested funding. | 1. DAFF should develop a Reporting and Monitoring Framework for all funds that are transferred to the Land Bank for the development of previously disadvantaged farmers and transformation of the agricultural sector. 2. DAFF should develop Guidelines for the utilisation of the AgriBEE Fund to advance sector transformation and ensure that the Department’s Monitoring and Evaluation Unit is strengthened for effective monitoring of the Fund’s utilisation. 3. Submit to the Committee the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) that has been signed with the Land Bank and the DRDLR on the Blended Funding Model.   To the **Minister of Finance:**   1. The Land Bank in collaboration with DAFF and DRDLR should hold further consultations and discussions on the Blended Funding Model to ensure the inclusion of other relevant departments and development finance institutions including consideration of policies that are under development such as DAFF’s National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support. The joint Departments and institutions should further develop a comprehensive Concept Document on the Blended Funding Model for submission to Parliament. 2. The Land Bank should submit to the Committee a comprehensive plan for the transfer of 10% of its shares at the Cavalier Group to the company’s workers. The plan should also indicate whether the transfer of shares to workers and a BEE partner forms part of its agreement with Cavalier when it bought shares in the company; and whether all 1 400 workers at the company are eligible for shareholding.      1. The Land Bank, as a 19.9% shareholder in the Cavalier Group through a R62 million investment in 2017, should submit a report to the Committee on capacity building programmes for the company’s workers, who are envisaged to be future shareholders in the company, to ensure that they can be promoted to managerial positions and are able to fully participate in the running of the company as partners. 2. The Land Bank should submit to the Committee a comprehensive report on how the R210 million investment to Majesty Oils (Pty) Ltd is going to be utilised. 3. The Land Bank should submit a comprehensive report to the Committee, of the businesses that were supported through the AgriBEE Fund from May 2014 to November 2016. The report should also include profiles and locations of the businesses that were supported and their current status. 4. The Land Bank should submit to the Committee a comprehensive report on its transformational transactions that were undertaken in 2017/18 as indicated in its Integrated Annual Report for the 2018 financial year. The report should also include profiles as indicated in number 8 above. | Adopted by PC, 19 March 2019 |
| **28 January – 01 February 2019** | Cape Winelands and Overberg Districts, Western Cape | The purpose of the oversight visit was to oversee:   1. The implementation of the Fetsa Tlala Food Production Initiative and status of projects that have been funded through conditional grants such as the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme (CASP), which is also used to fund Fetsa Tlala; as well as Ilima/Letsema; 2. The implementation of the Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) through the development of commodity value chains; and 3. Support that is provided to smallholder producers and land reform beneficiaries in the Province. | 1. Ensure Intergovernmental relations between DAFF and Provincial Departments including other departments and different spheres of Government are well coordinated and strengthened to avoid duplication of activities and haphazard implementation of Government policies and interventions. 2. DAFF and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture including the relevant Municipalities submit to Parliament a comprehensive report on the agreements that have been signed between the projects and all the different Implementing Agents/Mentors/Strategic Partners that have been used by the Department or the Municipalities to implement and manage projects in the Province, for example, AgriMega, AgriDwala, Two-a-Day (TAD), etc. The report should include the terms of contract with the Department/Municipality, the Agents’ responsibilities and all funds that have been disbursed to them including the breakdown on the utilisation of such funds. 3. The National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support Programme is finalised as a matter of urgency to ensure that all developing famers are supported in an equitable manner throughout the country. The Policy is of utmost importance to provide guidance and to address anomalies amongst provinces with respect to farmer support and provision of mechanisation. 4. All the 450 black farmers that have been identified across provinces for the Commercialisation Programme (both farm owners and beneficiaries) are appropriately supported with the necessary financial and technical support, skills training and capacity building, infrastructure and market access. 5. DAFF and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture as well as the relevant Municipalities should also present a report on the operations of the Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy (PLAS) farms in the Province and on Municipal Commonages that are used for agricultural purposes including the terms and status of leases and rental amounts that beneficiaries pay to the relevant department and/or Municipalities. 6. DAFF present quarterly to the Portfolio Committee, a progress report on all the projects that have been visited during the Oversight Visit; as well as an Action Plan on how late transfer of conditional grants such as CASP to Provinces is addressed to prevent delays in project implementation. 7. DAFF, in collaboration with the Departments of Rural Development and Land Reform, Human Settlement, Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs and Water and Sanitation submit to Parliament an Action Plan on how to address tenure insecurity and lack of housing and amenities in farming areas in order to ensure that the livehoods of farm workers are secured and improved. 8. Ensure that DAFF investigates all the Implementing Agents/ Mentors/ Strategic Partners that have been used by the different provinces (departments and/or municipalities) to implement and manage agricultural projects; and submit a comprehensive report to Parliament by the end of March 2019. 9. Hold discussions with the National Treasury to review the placement of conditional grants in order to ensure that they are effectively used for what they are meant for and to strengthen accountability. Currently, the national Department holds the grants only to disburse them to provinces, which are responsible for their utilisation in the implementation of relevant activities. However, the national Department has not been able to fully account for the funds as it relies on written reports from provinces, which in many cases are not a reflection of what is happening on the ground. Report to Parliament by the end of March 2019. | Adopted by PC, 19 March 2019 |

* 1. **Challenges encountered during and after oversight visits**

**Technical/operational challenges**

* Time and the budget to do sufficient and effective oversight have always been constraints to the Committee.
* Late submission of requested information by Departments on projects that the Committee intends to visit.
* Last minute changes to the Oversight Programmes by the Departments involved affected the utilisation of time and in some cases, extended driving distances to projects.
* In some provinces, absence of provincial Executive Authorities and Accounting Officers to brief the Committee and address Members’ questions has been a consistent challenge during Committee oversight visits.
* Unavailability of Rural Development officials during Committee visits where Agriculture and Rural Development are within the same Department in a province.
* Delayed adoption of oversight reports, which resulted in recommendations to the Department being overtaken by events.

**Content-related challenges**

* During oversights visits, information on project profiles that are submitted to the Committee by departments was often found to be contradictory to the actual projects and was the opposite of the reality on the ground, hence the importance of oversight visits.
* The Departments (national and provincial) often could not provide full accounts of the monies that were allocated to projects at the time of visits. In most cases, Departments could not give full accounts of project activities on-site, and detailed information had to be sent to Parliament in writing after the visit, which sometimes delayed the finalisation of oversight reports and follow-up on recommendations/resolutions.
* There was no effective monitoring and evaluation by DAFF, of the utilisation and management of conditional grants that they transfer to provinces on an annual basis for project implementation. The Department will generally visit the projects for the first time during the Committee’s visit.
* Lack of responses to oversight recommendations from both DAFF and some provincial Departments of Agriculture.

1. **INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS**

The following international agreements were processed and reported on:

| **Date referred** | **Name of International Agreement** | **Objective** | **Status of Report** | **Date of enforcement** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 15 October 2014 | Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) | To promote cooperation among its Members with a view to ensuring, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of tuna stocks covered by this Agreement and encouraging sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. | Adopted |  |
| 15 October 2014 | Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) | To ensure, through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilisation of the southern bluefin tuna. | Adopted |  |
| 15 October 2014 | United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) (Port State Measures on IUU Fishing) | To prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing through the implementation of effective port State measures, and thereby to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources and marine ecosystems. | Adopted |  |

* 1. **Challenges on the processing of the international agreements**

**Technical/operational challenges**

* The Department tabled all three Agreements in Parliament without accompanying Draft Resolutions from Cabinet regarding the proposed ratification of, or accession to, the specific international Agreement.
* The Agreements were tabled in Parliament were not original Agreements but copies without letterheads, signatures and some were not dated.
* The Agreements were tabled without accompanying legal opinions from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), which were later forwarded to the Committee upon request. While the Agreements were tabled in Parliament in 2014, the forwarded legal opinions for all 3 Agreements were outdated, dating from 2008 to 2012.

**Content-related challenges**

* The Department tabled all three Agreements without accompanying Explanatory Memoranda as required by DIRCO Regulations and Rule 306(2) of the National Assembly.
* During the first briefing on the Agreements to the Committee, the Department could not explain the value of the two Tuna Agreements to the country in terms of revenue, employment, financial implications to the Department in terms of implementation, implications to the local industry and the smallscale fisheries sector, which has no access to the tuna fishery due to lack of resources and capacity.
* The Department could not respond on how it was addressing weaknesses that were identified by research on the implementation of the FAO’s Port State Measures on IUU Fishing by tuna regional fisheries management organisations, with the exception of the IOTC.

1. **OBLIGATIONS CONFERRED ON COMMITTEE BY LEGISLATION**

* Section 5(1) of the **Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009)** mandates and sets out the process that allows Parliament’s National Assembly, through its Committees, to make recommendations to the Minister of Finance to amend the budget of a national department. As obligated by Act No. 9 of 2009, in October each year, the Committee must submit a Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report (BRRR) to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries regarding the activities and budget of the Department and the entities that fall under its oversight responsibilities.
* The Committee is also obligated by different pieces of legislation that govern the Department’s entities to participate in the nomination of candidates to serve in the entities’ Boards of Directors. The following are the applicable pieces of legislation:
* The **Marketing of Agricultural Products Acts, 1996 (Act No. 47 of 1996**) requires that Chairpersons of parliamentary Committees or their delegates be part of the Selection Committee that is established by the Minister for the appointment of the NAMC’s Council/Board members. Section 4 of the Act also requires that a shortlist of nominated candidates be sent to the parliamentary Committees for consideration; and for the Committees to jointly recommend not less than three candidates for each of the categories of the Council/Board membership.
* The **Agricultural Research Act, 1990 (Act No. 86 of 1990)** requires the Minister to invite parliamentary Committees to submit to the Minister for consideration, names of persons who comply with the criteria referred to Section 9: (2)(a), (4) and (5) of the Act.
* The **Onderstepoort Biological Products Incorporation Act, 1999 (Act No. 19 of 1999)** requires that a Chairperson of a parliamentary Committee on Agriculture be part of the Selection Committee that will be established by the Minister for the appointment of candidates that will serve in the Board of the OBP.
* The **Land and Agricultural Development Bank Act, 2002 (Act No. 15 of 2002)** requires the Minister to invite relevant parliamentary Committees to submit to the Minister for consideration, names of persons who are not disqualified in terms of Section 10 of the Act, to serve on the Board of the Land Bank.
  1. **Challenges encountered on obligations that are conferred on Committee by Legislation**
* The Committee is overseeing a large Department with complex subject fields and therefore, requires sufficient time to engage with the Department and its entities during annual report briefings; and to develop the BRRR. However, Parliament gives all Committees only 2 weeks in which to engage with the Department and its entities and to develop and adopt the BRRR. The idea being to adopt and publish the BRRR before the Minister of Finance delivers the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS), which is in contrast to what Act No. 9 of 2009 says about the submission of the BRRR.
* Challenges relating to legislation that established the Department’s entities are outlined in sub-section 9.1 below.

1. **STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS**

The following appointment processes were referred to the Committee and the resultant statutory appointments were made:

| **Date** | **Type of appointment** | **Period of appointment** | **Status of Report** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 23 June 2014 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the Land Bank | 2 years | Adopted |
| 13 August 2014 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) | 1 years | Adopted |
| 29 October 2015 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) | 3 years | Adopted |
| 11 May 2016 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the Land Bank | 5 years | Adopted |
| 01 June 2016 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) | 1 years | Adopted |
| 25 November 2016 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) | 3 years | Adopted |
| 05 June 2018 | Nomination of candidates to serve on the Board of the Land Bank | 2 years | Adopted |

**9.1 Challenges encountered on statutory appointments**

* Late referral of correspondence to the Committee for nomination of candidates that will serve on the Boards of entities when there is a need for a new Board or filling of vacancies in the existing Board.
* Referral to the Committee not accompanied by the explanatory letter from the relevant Executive Authority regarding the vacancies to be filled in a particular Board, thus delaying the processing of the referral by the Committee.
* The relevant Executive Authorities do not report back to the Parliamentary Committees after appointments to the Boards have been made as required by the different pieces of legislation that are listed on Section 8 above.

1. **OTHER MATTERS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker of the National Assembly referred to the Committee for consideration, the following:

| **Date of referral** | **Expected report date** | **Content of referral** | **Status of Report** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 01 March 2017 | N/A | Report of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on National Investigative Hearing into Safety and Security Challenges in Farming Communities. | Not considered. |
| 01 March 2018 | N/A | Public Protector Report No. 31 of 2017-18 on an investigation into complaints of maladministration against the Free State Department of Agriculture in respect of non-adherence to Treasury prescripts and lack of financial control in the administration of the Vrede Integrated Dairy Project. | Not considered as the matter was already *sub judice* at the time of referral, but the Committee undertook an oversight visit to Vrede Dairy Farm. |
| 06 June 2018 | 28 September 2018 | High Level Panel Report on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change (HLP Report). | Not considered. |

1. **SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES ON COMMITTEE’S INTERACTIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT AND/OR**

**ENTITIES**

**11.1 Follow-up issues for the Sixth Parliament**

| **Issues** | **Activity** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. The Blended Funding Model and commercialisation of black producers 2. Recommendations of the High Level Panel Report on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change 3. Operation Phakisa for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; and for Oceans Economy 4. Implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy 5. Food Safety and the establishment of the Food Control Agency 6. Farmer Register and Agricultural Census 7. Sector transformation 8. Department’s disciplinary processes and investigations 9. Oversight visit | * Continue interacting with the relevant departments through joint activities to discuss the Blended Funding Model and its implementation – i.e. Committees on Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Rural Development & Land Reform, Trade & Industry, as well as Finance Committees. * Joint briefings with the Committee on Rural Development & Land Reform on the recommendations of the High Level Panel (HLP) Report. * Joint briefings with the Committee on Rural Development & Land Reform on the implementation of Operation Phakisa for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and Committee on Environmental Affairs on Oceans Economy. * Joint briefings with the Committees on Social Development, Basic Education, Rural Development & Land Reform and Health to assess progress in the implementation of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy through the Interdepartmental Task Team. * Joint briefings with the Committees on Health, Trade and Industry and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to assess progress in the establishment of the Food Control Agency. * Receive updates from DAFF and Statistics South Africa on the development of a Farmer Register and the Agricultural Census. * Regular updates on transformation in all three sectors including the review and evaluation of the role that has been played by the AgriBEE Fund in agriculture and other transformation tools. * The Fifth Parliament had major concerns with the Department’s protracted disciplinary processes and lack of consequence management in some cases. One of the outstanding cases was the approval and authorisation of a 51% salary increase of the Chief Executive Officer of the soon-to-be deregistered Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd that was found to be irregular. The matter took place in 2015/16 and the Department cited lack of funds for the inability to finalise the disciplinary process. The Sixth Parliament should follow up on the matter including disciplinary cases against some Fisheries officials that were implicated in the Department’s forensic investigation reports and investigations of the Public Service Commission into alleged corruption in the Fisheries Branch. * The Sixth Parliament should consider undertaking an oversight to the Northern Cape Province as it was the only Province that could not be visited by the Fifth Parliament due to time and budgetary constraints. |

**11.2 Follow-up and outstanding issues from the Department and its Entities**

| **Issues** | **Activities** |
| --- | --- |
| **Legislation**  **Policy and other matters** | * Implementation of, and compliance to, enacted legislation e.g. formal tabling of responses to Committee Reports that are referred to the Executive Authority by the Speaker of the National Assembly; and reporting to relevant Parliamentary Committees within 30 days of finalising nominations to the Boards of entities as required by legislation. * Fast track the finalisation of the Preservation and Development of Agricultural Land Framework (PDALF) Bill that is expected to address loss of agricultural land and resources; * Ensure the review all old legislation such as the Performing Animals Protection Act (Act No. 24 of 1935); Fertilisers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act No. 36 of 1947); the Animals Protection Act (Act No. 71 of 1962) and the Fencing Act (Act No. 31 of 1963), which are outdated and in some respects, impede the development of the sector; as well as legislation that established most of the Department’s entities; * Development of an Oceans Bill that was proposed at the launch of Operation Phakisa for Oceans Economy in 2013; and * Development of an Animal Welfare Bill that was proposed by the Department during the processing of the Performing Animals Protection Amendment (PAPA) Bill in 2015. * Finalisation and implementation of the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support including its monitoring framework. * A report on the outcome of the review of the Department’s organisational structure (organogram) including the full reviewed organogram. * The Department’s Legislative Review Programme for the 2019 MTEF period. * Development of the Policy on Inland Fisheries with the focus on developing economic opportunities around existing storage dams and rivers. * Reports on investigations and disciplinary actions against Fisheries officials that have been implicated in fraudulent FRAP activities including other investigation reports (e.g. Public Service Commission - PSC). * Report on the implementation of the Tuna International Agreements including the benefits that have accrued to the country following the accession to the Agreements in terms of capacity building, total allowable catch, revenue and employment growth. * Responses to the recommendations of the 2018 Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report. * Briefing on the Spatial Analysis of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that was initiated in 2012 to identify high impact intervention areas at a national, provincial and local level; and to further guide the implementation of the Department’s food security interventions. The updated status of the Spatial Analysis, which was reportedly developed in partnership with the DRDLR, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was not presented to the Fifth Parliament. * Development and finalisation of theStrategy on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture, whose purpose will be to promote best practices, enhance the role of agriculture in urban and peri-urban livelihoods and improve coordination and cooperation among role players. Increased rural-to-urban migration in search of economic opportunities and increasing unemployment throughout the country including in urban areas, has seen an increase in urban poverty and food insecurity, which used to be confined to rural areas. * DAFF’s response to outstanding recommendations of oversight visits that have been undertaken during the Fifth Parliament. * Signing of the country’s Compact for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and its implementation thereof. * DAFF’s Monitoring and Evaluation Policy/Framework for conditional grants. |
| **Audit Improvement Plans** | * Progress on the implementation of Audit Improvement Plans for audit findings that were raised in the 2017/18 Annual Reports of the Department and those of two of its entities, namely, the ARC and the MLRF, which both received qualified audit opinions on their financial statements from the Auditor-General of South Africa. |

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**Operational/Procedural Issues**

* 1. The Committee is overseeing 3 different, technical and complex sectors and one of these, Agriculture, is large on its own. As a result, the Committee experienced challenges with sufficient time and budget to carry out all its planned oversight activities, whether it was briefings or visits. Late referral of correspondence from the Speakers’ Office for Committee consideration and processing has also been a challenge. Additionally, the Committee also operated without technical support for the Forestry sector throughout the Fifth Parliament. The Sixth Parliament should advocate for sufficient time and budget, timeous referrals, as well as technical support for the Committee to enable it to effectively carry out its mandate.
  2. Instability at the senior management service (SMS) level of the Department during the Fifth Parliament’s term affected the Department’s service delivery and subsequently, the effectiveness of the Committee’s oversight over the Department. Since 2014, the Department could not keep an Accounting Officer (Director-General) for more than 18 months and relied on different acting personnel for those periods that it did not have an Accounting Officer. In addition, throughout the financial years, there were always vacancies at the Deputy Director-General (DDG) and other SMS levels, which impacted decision making. The Department was also marred by suspensions of senior officials including the current Accounting Officer who was appointed in June 2016 and was on suspension for almost a year from July 2017 to March 2018. The Sixth Parliament should consistently monitor such challenges and get briefings on vacancies particularly at SMS level while ensuring that the Department fills critical and SMS level vacancies with qualified and competent people to address reliance on consultants.
  3. Delays in the adoption of Committee minutes and reports impact the timeliness of responses from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. To address delays in the adoption of minutes and reports due to time constraints and work load, it is recommended that the Committee should start each meeting with the adoption of the minutes of a previous meeting.

**Technical and Service Delivery Issues**

* 1. One of the major challenges that have been raised by the Committee was lack of intergovernmental relations (IGR) between the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and other relevant Government departments including entities. The Sixth Parliament should promote IGR by having joint planning sessions and briefing meetings with other relevant Committees on matters that are cross cutting such as the Blended Funding Model, land reform and post-settlement support, transformation, agroprocessing, job creation, aquaculture development, etc. In promoting and enforcing IGR, the Sixth Parliament should also take cognisance of existing forums/platforms that have been established by Government to address lack of IGR and silo approaches. These include Operation Phakisa for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and Operation Phakisa for Ocean Economy. For example, during the Fifth Parliament, the Committee only managed to receive briefings on the Ocean Economy from DAFF but not from other departments that are involved.
  2. The Sixth Parliament needs to pay particular attention to the development of a long-term (at least 15-20 years) Integrated Sector Plan that encompasses all three sectors, notwithstanding changes that may happen in the Cabinet structure. The need for an Agricultural Plan was also highlighted in the High Level Panel Report; and the Sixth Parliament should request a briefing from the Department on the Panel’s recommendation(s) for Agriculture. The Department’s five-year Agricultural Policy Action Plan (APAP) that was developed during the 4th Parliament’s Term was not effectively implemented during the 5th Parliament’s Term and the Department failed to appropriately report on its activities during the 5th Parliament as required in the 2014-19 MTSF. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are natural resource-based sectors and a minimum of five years in agriculture and more in forestry and fisheries is required to realise tangible results of any policy or programme implementation. Therefore, there is a need for a **long-term Sector Plan** that will ensure the **development, transformation and growth of the sector**; and which must also be aligned with the United Nation’s post-2015 Development Agenda (the Sustainable Development Goals) and the African Union’s Agenda 2063.
  3. The Department fell short of fully integrating agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors through policies and/or programmes. The Fisheries Management Branch in most respects, still operated like a separate entity instead of the Programme of the Department. Forestry occupies a small land area of the country and has minimal contribution to the economy yet the Forestry Programme in the Department has the largest staff compliment of all Departmental Programmes. The Sixth Parliament should get a briefing on the **Department’s organisational structure** to determine its relevance to its mandate, how it addresses leadership challenges and also takes into account the concurrency of the agricultural sector including alignment of functions with those of its entities.
  4. The Department has also been slow in the development, implementation and review of existing policies. In certain instances, the Department relied on consultants to develop new policies with no implementation plans. The Smallscale Fisheries Policy for example was approved in 2012 but the Department only started implementation at the end of 2018. The National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support was conceptualised in 2013 and first drafted in 2016 but was not finalised and implemented by the end of the Fifth Parliament. The Sixth Parliament needs to ensure that, the Department reviews existing policies; monitors policy implementation; determines whether policies are still applicable/responsive to current challenges and also ensure that each newly developed policy is accompanied by an implementation plan.
  5. The Sixth Parliament must ensure that the Department finalises and implements the Comprehensive Producer Development Support Policy to address the fragmented technical and financial support to developing farmers for a **comprehensive One-stop-shop Facility** that also includes Forestry and Fisheries sectors. The one-stop-shop Facility must be able to provide training and capacity building, extension and other technical support, different forms of mechanisation, and must meet funding requirements for the different categories of producers/entrepreneurs across all three sectors. Additionally, the Sixth Parliament should consider the development of legislation to ensure that the Policy, once finalised and approved, is implemented.
  6. The Sixth Parliament should engage DAFF on its collaborative efforts with **academic institutions and its involvement in curriculum determination and review** to ensure that agricultural qualifications from the country’s higher education institutions address the socio-economic needs of the country including specific skills shortages. The Department needs to brief the Sixth Parliament on its interactions with, and, the distinct roles that are played by the different academic institutions i.e. universities, universities of technology, agricultural colleges, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges and Sector Education and Training Authorities (SETAs) in addressing the shortage of required skills in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
  7. The Sixth Parliament should receive briefings and pays particular attention to the **mentorship and strategic partnership programmes** of the Department and the DRDLR including the utilisation of **implementing agents**. During oversight visits, in most projects, instead of developing land reform beneficiaries, these programmes were found to be benefitting the implementing agents and strategic partners who in some cases, were previous farm owners. The departments spent large sums of money on these programmes without monitoring and assessing their value to the beneficiaries or mentees.
  8. The Sixth Parliament should engage the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as well as Finance on collaborative activities to ensure that the Land Bank delivers on its developmental mandate as the Land Bank has also been identified in Operation Phakisa as a vehicle to support developing farmers and facilitate transformation in the agricultural sector. The Sixth Parliament should assess the Land Bank’s model(s) of providing support to black farmers and promoting transformation.
  9. The Sixth Parliament should consider holding extensive public hearings on genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) including the implementation and application of legislation that regulates GMOs, given the contentious nature and the different views that are expressed on the subject.
  10. The Sixth Parliament should receive a briefing from DAFF on its mandate and/or responsibilities in respect of Game Farming as well as Game and Livestock Auctioneering Businesses including on policies and/or legislation that regulate these industries.
  11. The Sixth Parliament should ensure that DAFF collaborates with the Department of Labour to establish a Fisheries sector accident fund that is similar to the Road Accident Fund. Workers that are involved in fishing vessel accidents at sea are not compensated for injuries or deaths as is the case with people that get injured on road accidents. This is notwithstanding the fuel levies and other taxes that are paid by fishing vessel owners.
  12. The Sixth Parliament should advocate for substantial funding for research and innovation particularly to the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to enable the sector to address emerging challenges and ensure readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

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