

Office of the Director-General

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| **FURTHER RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS: 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLANS AND 2020-2021 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, THE COMMISSION ON RESTITUTION OF LAND RIGHTS AND THE INGONYAMA TRUST BOARD: 5 MAY 2020** | | |
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| **No** | **Issue raised** | **Response** |
| **Hon: S Matiase, MP** | | |
| 1 | **What are factors that brought the Land Bank to its current financial crisis; is the bank bankrupt or not?** | Land Bank is best placed to respond to this question. |
| 2 | **Food Security in the context of Covid-19**  3(i) of the 13.8 people living below the poverty line, does the department knowledge how many are exposed to pang of hunger and what department has done in intervention measures? | The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) works through the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan (NFNSP) to address the 13,8 million people living below the poverty line. This is a multi-disciplinary team of sector departments and Non-Governmental Organisations to address the various aspects of Poverty as well as Food and Nutrition Security. At present the team is part of the National Joint Command Centre (NatJoints) working to address the issues of food and nutrition security.  DALRRD is also using the information of the South African Vulnerability Assessment Committee as well as information in the NatJoints. This work will be expanded in-cooperation with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to better assist in all aspects of vulnerability. |
| 3(ii) in light of the national state of disaster with consequences of no forms of income, no access to food etc, as a result of lockdown, staying at home and for forth, has the department saw a need to establish food banks and harvest produces and food supplies for the most vulnerable for this purpose, if no, then why it hasn’t established a food bank? | The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) has not established a Food Bank. Direct distribution of food to needy persons is the mandate of the Department of Social Development (DSD). DALRRD works with DSD and willing partners within the Agriculture sector during the COVID 19 outbreak. The distribution of such sponsored food items is agreed upon with the relevant sponsor, based on their prioritised areas in collaboration with DALRRD. The DALRRD works with DSD and other Non-Governmental Organisation through the National Food and Nutrition Security Plan to ensure farmers supply the food distribution networks. |
| 3(iii) without a structured intervention to ensure access to food and food security for the most vulnerable, how does the department know whether there people who have food as we speak? | The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is not directly involved in the distribution of food. DALRRD has been monitoring the availability and stability of supply for food in the food value chain and together with its State-Owned Entities (SOEs) monitors the prices of the basic food items using the 28 item Basic Food Basket and the 35 item zero rated food basket. |
| Cannabis Master Plan since the master plan has been approved, does it repeal laws which prohibit the use of cannabis, if no, when will that be done? | The Cannabis Master Plan has not yet been approved. Other legislative issues have to be resolved before any commercialisation can occur. |
| 3 | **Administration on the merger of erstwhile Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Rural Development and Land Reform into the current Departmental reconfiguration**  What are factors that led to costs incurred for this merger or reconfiguration; can these factors be made public with cost per item? | It is requested that this question be clarified to enable a response. |
| 4 | **Food Security, Land Reform and Restitution.**  Number of smallholder and medium-scale producers  supported through Blended Finance Scheme, 150 producers have been supported  Number of farms supported through the land development support programme, 200 producers have been supported. 900 red meat producers supported | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 1. Tete Somahashi Trading Enterprise CC | KwaZulu-Natal | Small | 61 | Male | African | | 1. FH Benade | Northern Cape | Medium | 36 | Male | Coloured | | 1. Ditaung Agricultural Cooperative | North West | Small | 45 | Male | African | | 1. Mway Trading Enterprise | North West | Small | 59 | Female | African | | 1. Moatswi Trust | North West | Small | 68 | Female | African | | 1. ADK Poultry (Pty) Ltd | Gauteng | Small | 37 | Female | Indian | | 1. Sign Farming | Mpumalanga | Medium | 39 | Male | African |   For 150, 200 and 900, the figures are targets for 2020/21, they have not yet been supported, and the breakdown per race, gender and age can only being provided after the support has been given. The Department is still finalizing the selection of those who qualify for support. |
| 5 | LandCare Programme focus areas and how the budget is allocated to the programme and to provinces. | The Landcare programme implements projects that are in-line with five major focus areas:  • Water care  • Soil care  • Veld care  • Junior care  • Conservation agriculture. The key strategic output is hectares of land rehabilitated in which activities amongst others will include:   * Rehabilitation of degraded agricultural land * Practising of Conservation Agriculture * Erection of fences and veld management * Eradication and control of alien and invasive species |
| 6 | How is the budget allocated to the programme and to provinces? | The Department receives MTEF allocations for the programme. The allocations by National to Province is based on an index comprising of nodes, land capability, poverty, degradation and land size derived from the following sources:   * nodes of the most deprived wards in comprehensive rural development programme * land capability = total hectares class I, II and III (spatial analysis - land capability data) * size = hectares (new boundaries from the Municipal Demarcations Board) * poverty = poverty gap based on food poverty line (Statistics South Africa Living Conditions Survey 2018) * degradation = hectares (Land degradation report 2018) * policy imperatives and development for sustainable land management |
| 7 | How does the branch determine how much to be transferred to PDA on a monthly basis? | The conditional grant framework specifies the disbursement schedule to provinces on a quarterly basis (10%, 35%, 35% and 20%). Further disbursement/payment schedule is guided by the performance of the provinces, which is part of Division of Revenue Act (DORA) payment schedule. |
| 8 | After transferring to PDA what oversight/ monitoring measures do you have in place. | Monitoring of the LandCare programme is done through continuous project visits, monthly financial reports, monthly Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) reports, quarterly reports and quarterly Natural Resource Management meetings. |
| 9 | How are the provincial projects approved? | Provinces recommend projects through the Provincial Assessment Panel (PAP) signed off by Provincial Head of Department for the National Assessment Panel (NAP) to consider and recommend to the Accounting Officer for approval. |
| 10 | Is there an approval structure? If it arises from Regulations/Legislation, please indicate as such and also where the approval delegations lie | * The LandCare grant framework, which is the regulation for DORA, provides for initiation of projects by communities/ farmers/ tribal authorities then assessed by Province through PAP ensuring alignment with identified strategic priorities, NAP consider the alignment with conditions of the grant framework and recommend for approval by the Accounting Officer. * Functions of the programme are delegated to the Branch - Directorate Land Use and Soil Management and LandCare Secretariat through funding agreement by the National Accounting Officer/ Transferring Officer. The duties of Receiving Officer/ Head of Department are delegated to LandCare coordinator and officials of programme 2 dealing with sustainable natural resource management. All are guided by the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, Act 43 of 1983 which seeks to provide for the conservation of the natural agricultural resources of the Republic by the maintenance of the production potential of land, by the combating and prevention of erosion and weakening or destruction of the water sources, and by the protection of the vegetation and the combating of weeds and invader plants. |
|  | Who are the members of the approval committee? Is the approval at National or Provincial level? | There is no approval committee however, there is a technical assessment team referred to as the Assessment Panel i.e. PAP and NAP who recommend business plans to the Accounting Officer.  **Provincial Assessment Panel (PAP)** - Assess whether business plans are in line with required interventions to preserve and use natural agricultural resources sustainable and recommend Provincial Business plan to the National Assessment Panel.  **National Assessment Panel (NAP)-** focus on assessing the provincial strategy and extent to which the six LandCare principles of (i) integrated natural resources management, (ii) community ownership and empowerment, (iii) building partnerships and institutions, (iv) increased productivity, (v) natural resource management, and (vi) improvement of farmer’s knowledge and skills will be realized through the implementation of the recommended Provincial business plan. |
| What are the Terms of Reference? | Not applicable. The prescripts of the DORA is followed. |
| Now that we are in May, have the 2020/21 projects approved? When whey they are approved? | The LandCare programme submission has been processed awaiting approval for the four provinces that compliant to the DORA prescripts. These provinces are Western Cape, Limpopo, Free State and Eastern Cape. The remaining Provinces are engaged to fully comply with the requirements of the Act. |
| What caused the delay? Have we notified NT on the delays and what was the response? | Non-compliance and late compliance by the Province. Treasury was not informed due to COVID 19 lockdown which encouraged social distancing. |
| Noting the delays, provide an intervention plan | Responsible officials are encouraged to re-visit Provincial business plans to unlock challenges and address non-compliance faced by Provinces and monitor progress. |
| 11 | What is the state of readiness with regards to implementation of the Africa Free Trade Agreement | Due to the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the continent, country and sector could not use the period between February and June 2020, to finalise outstanding issues and prepare the industries as well as implementation units of the State for the smooth implementation of the Agreement. As a result, these issues had to be postponed as the focus shifted to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, South Africa working with its SACU partners must still finalise the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Tariff Offer and the outstanding issues on rules of origin. The Tariff Offer will set out the common approach SACU would take to liberalise trade under the AfCFTA agreement. The way forward is that a new implementation programme (including timelines) is being developed by the African Union Member States to deal with these challenges. |
| 12 | Why limited Agri parks to 9 | The financial demand to complete an Agri-Park is huge. Given the current fiscal constraints and none private sector investment to the programme, the department had to prioritise in order to complete 9 Agri-Parks by the end of the MTSF. |