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***PROCEEDINGS OF MINI-PLENARY SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

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Members of the mini-plenary session met on the virtual

platform at 16:31.

House Chairperson Mr C T Frolick took the Chair and requested

members to observe a moment of silence for prayer or

meditation.

The Chairperson announced that the virtual mini-plenary

sitting constituted a meeting of the National Assembly.

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

Debate on Vote No 29 – Agriculture, Land Reform, And Rural

Development:

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT: Hon Chairperson of the session, hon Frolick, hon



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members, Deputy Ministers Skwatsha and Capa, chairperson and

members of the Portfolio Committee, of Agriculture, Land

Reform and Rural Development, members of our statutory boards

and councils, leadership of farmers organisations and chief

executive officers, CEOs of commodity organisations present,

farmers and farm workers, senior officials, ladies and

gentlemen, I greet you.

*IsiZulu*:

Sanibonani.

*English*:

The new normal ushered by COVID-19 has meant that we execute

strategies on agricultural production and food security

differently. Agriculture has shown buoyancy over the past two

years, growing by 13,4%, year-on-year in 2020 and 8,3% in

2021. The employment figures in the sector were at 868 000 in

the fourth quarter of 2021, reflecting stability over the past

few years. Most agricultural subsectors in South Africa are

emerging from one of the best years for the agricultural

sector - the 2020-21 season. Grains, oilseeds and some fruit

such as citrus saw bumper harvests, which boosted export

earnings and improved farm income.



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However, the economic growth experienced and the relative

stability in employment are in danger of being eroded due to a

number of factors, including the geopolitical issues affecting

agricultural trade.

The current Russia-Ukraine conflict has the potential to

scupper our growth, as there are real concerns about its

potential impact on escalating food prices, since the two

countries are major exporters of grains, oilseeds,

fertilisers, and crude oil products to international markets.

I have established a sector task team, led by the National

Agricultural Marketing Council, NAMC, that is constantly

scanning the environment and providing periodic reports on

this unfolding situation and the impact on the sector in

particular the escalation of food prices, animal feed and

fertilisers.

Hon Chairperson and hon members, the intention of our land and

agrarian reform has always been about redressing the inequity

in terms of land ownership because of colonial and apartheid

policies. We must ensure that land ownership assist us in

attaining tenure security for all, empower citizens to



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participate in the agricultural economy and ensure integrated

rural development. Our interventions in policy, legislation

and programmatic intervention must bring us closer in building

an inclusive society, without leaving anyone behind.

The challenges of poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment,

must challenge us to continuously find solutions that can

respond to these challenges. Racial discrimination also had a

gender dimension, it is for this reason that women empowerment

in both land and agrarian sectors should be integral.

The participation of the majority of women in the sector has

always been limited to subsistence farming and working in the

commercial farms, largely because land access has always been

a constraint.

Government’s intervention in order to correct this situation

has been multifold. Firstly, it has been about profiling women

farmers who are producing for the market through Female Farmer

of the Year. Secondly, it was about allocating women with

farms through our Proactive Land Acquisition Strategy, Plas.

Thirdly, it has been through department’s procurement.



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I wish to table hon members the 2022-23 budget. Let me

indicate from the outset that the Budget for the Agriculture,

Land Reform and rural Development Department is R17,3 billion.

A sizeable portion of this budget is for transfers to

provincial departments of agriculture, as well as entities.

These allocations relate to Ilima - Letsema Programme which is

a Conditional Grant; Comprehensive Agricultural Support

Programme; Comprehensive Agriculture Extension; Commission on

Restitution of Land Rights; Agricultural Research Council,

ARC; National Marketing Council; and Ingonyama Trust Board.

I wish to thank the portfolio committee for their work in

engaging us on our annual performance plans for the year 2022-

23, which outlines how we will utilise the allocated budget.

Today we are joining the world in celebrating the inaugural

International Plant Health Day - raising awareness on how

protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty,

protect biodiversity and the environment, and boost economic

development. These objectives are critical for us to achieve

the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These



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development goals compel us to have development that is

sustainable and inclusive, without leaving anyone behind.

Chairperson, today also marks a historic moment in South

Africa’s agricultural sector. Earlier today, we signed the

Agriculture Agro-processing Masterplan together with social

partners. This Plan is a product of negotiations between

government, labour, business, and civil society organisations

in the agriculture and agro-processing space.

The journey we have undertaken since June 2020, built on the

work done since 2001 when we first developed a strategic plan

for South Africa’s agricultural sector, the sector plan,

Operation Phakisa and the National Development Plan. All of

these processes remain important milestones that are aimed at

the transforming the sector, giving us a vision to which we

must focus. This Masterplan is lifting our gaze to imagine the

agricultural sector we want in South Africa. We want a

prosperous and inclusive agricultural sector that thrives on

better utilisation of its natural and human resources.

Allow me to commend Prof Mzukisi Qobo, together with the

National Marketing Council and the Research Team led by BEFAP,



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and CCRED who really worked with us to ensure that we reach

this milestone. My appreciation goes to leaders and

representatives of farmers, agri-business, labour and

government, who have tirelessly worked to ensure that we have

a vision and plan that will help us attain a transformed and

inclusive sector – doing this actually early morning of today.

The process of developing the Masterplan has emphasised the

multifaceted nature of agriculture in society. The

representatives were diverse reflective of the subsectors of

the industry. Such representation also highlighted the

upstream and downstream linkages that are embedded in the

sector.

The Masterplan development process has once again affirmed the

importance of social compacting, as pronounced by President

Ramaphosa during his state of the nation address. It requires

commitment, patience and determination from all those who are

involved. It may take longer; however, the fruits derived from

such a process are always rewarding.

Hon members, in 2016, we commenced a process of negotiating an

e-certification with the Netherlands, in order to ease the



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burden of inspection in support of trade. Working together

with industry, we have finally launched the e-certification

this Monday, 9 May 2022. This digital tool has come at an

opportune time, given the COVID-19 pandemic, where inspection

across borders has become even more difficult. South Africa is

now one of the few countries that will now use e-certification

for trade.

The feature of transformation of agriculture in South Africa

remains the change in landownership patterns, the growth of

black commercial farming and the accumulation of wealth, to

improve the quality of livelihoods of people directly and

indirectly impacted by agricultural initiatives. One of the

important elements for transformation and inclusive growth

will be the use of Public Private Partnerships.

Our partnership with Numolux Group, on the Ceres Abattoir,

through its subsidiary company, has seen us improving its

production capacity to 60 tons per month for the local market.

The success of this project gives us lessons on how we can

revitalise some of government defunct programmes.



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Initiatives such as Partners in Agri-land Solutions, Pals,

where there is a partnership between emerging and commercial

farmers, are showing fruits in addressing binding constraints.

The development of the Mkhuze-siding, which is a transloading

in support of small-scale sugarcane farmers of Makhathini

Flats is a result of partnership between government, farmers,

Transnet, KwaZulu-Natal Economic Development Department,

Tongaat Hullet and Santrans.

Hon members, I am raising these stories as an affirmation of

the importance of partnership in resolving our country’s

challenges.

Climate change and biosecurity, remains our major concern.

Today, it is a day to celebrate. However, one of our very own

Veterinarian Dr Gideon Bruckner, a committed civil servant who

served his country and continues to do so is one who would be

honoured by the World Organisation for Animal Health, OIE,

with the Gold Medal. This award is in recognition of his

excellent contribution to the international veterinary

scientific community.



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As we celebrate our excellence in veterinary services, we

acknowledge the challenges that remains. The Foot-and-Mouth

Disease remains to actually become our challenge.

The Onderstepoort Biological Products Company also requires

deliberate support, to ensure the completion of its Good

Manufacturing Practice, GMP facility. It is important to

ensure that information on availability and nonavailability of

vaccine is given timeously at all times.

It is important in my view Chairperson, and the department

that Onderstepoort must be able to give information at a

constant as well as you know in a transparent manner to

producers to know where can they get their vaccines.

Hon Chairperson, I know that a number of portfolio committee

members have been concerned about this matter and I share

those concerns.

The intensity and frequency of extreme weather and climate

events on the globe, and particularly in Africa, are expected

to increase. We therefore need to continue to strengthen the

multihazards early warning system for our country. The recent



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floods experienced in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape serve as

prime examples for the implementation of disaster risk

reduction measures.

There is an intrinsic link between climate change and the

spread of pests and diseases. Over the past few years, we have

been experiencing introduction, establishment and spread of

pests and diseases into new areas. Some of the outbreaks are

due to deliberate human interventions. Hon members, I must

hasten to assure you that we have dealt with the Foot-and-

Mouth in Gauteng and Free State by depopulating of affected

farms in Gauteng and Free State has been completed. We are

doing so now in the North West province. I wish to thank the

livestock industry for working with us in addressing this

outbreak. I have also been engaging the Limpopo province and

KwaZulu-Natal to ensure that we address this issue.

The task team that I have set out on biosecurity led by Dr

Moephuli, Prof Kirsten, Dr Mogajane and Dr Bruckner have

actually given me a draft report which we have engaged on and

we will be releasing the final report as soon as possible.



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We have had a challenge of brown locust in our country. As a

country, we have experienced swamps in the provinces of

Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Free State that

we have never seen in decades. This outbreak has had

devastating impact on farmers and local communities. We are

grateful to Kumba Iron Ore, Transnet and other private sector

companies that have collaborated with us in the fight against

these locusts.

Investment in agriculture remains important particularly if

you talk about commercialisation of black farmers. I must say

our Land Development Support has actually assisted a number of

farmers who are on our Pro-Active Land Acquisition Strategy,

Plas farms. Such as Mr Dan Mosia in Georgina Farm in the Free

State who has now increased his sunflower on 600 ha. He

narrated that in 2020, he started with 300 ha with a yield of

1.33 tons per ha. He expanded his operation to 600 ha. Another

success story is that of Mr Rudzani Sadiki in Thornveld Farms

in Limpopo, who also has increased his production of sunflower

to 974 ha. However, I must also say, while we are happy with

these successes we remain concerned that not all our Plas

farms as government are farmable. We have therefore resolved



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that we will need to put basic and necessary infrastructure to

make sure that such farms are farmable.

Hon members, last year in our budget debate we announced that

we would open up for the application of hemp permits by

October 2021. I want to assure you that yes, we have done as

we have promised. Thirty-one permits have been issued. We

continue to process the rest of the applications. In order to

ensure an inclusive value-chain, we will be working with

Agricultural Research Council, ARC, to set up demonstration

farms in all nine provinces, to ensure education of primary

producers on the appropriation production technologies.

The Agri-Industrial Fund that we set up last year with

Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, has also borne some

fruit. We have since seen poultry farmers now who have been

funded by this facility being able to actually produce about

1,9 million birds per cycle.

It is important for me Chairperson to indicate the importance

of agricultural financing in support of agriculture. It is for

this reason that we are supporting the Land and Agriculture

Land Bank to make sure that they engage the landless and find



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amicable solutions that will assist the Land Bank to fund

again.

With regards to market access we have concluded the signing of

citrus and pear protocols to increase export of pears and

citrus fruits to the China market. We are also currently

negotiating trade protocols with South Korea, Saudi Arabia and

the Philippines.

I must say that we have bilateral relations that we have

signed with Ghana and CÔte d’Ivoire last year. These

agreements lay the foundation of technical exchange, but at

the same time improving our capacity to trade with them.

Chairperson, during this current year we will examine all

bilateral agreements we have entered into in order to assess

the extent to which they can enhance our country’s national

interest. All of these that I have mentioned are important to

ensure that we succeed and therefore strengthening our governance

and administration. I thank you.



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Inkosi Z M D MANDELA: Thank you hon House Chair, the hon

Minister Didiza, Deputy Ministers, hon members, ladies and

gentlemen, comrades and friends ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... molweni bantakwethu, ...

*Afrikaans*:

... goeiedag ...

*English*:

... and good afternoon to you all.

*Arabic*:

*As-salaamu-alai-kum.*

[Inaudible.]

*English*:

I greet you with greetings of peace and a life of dignity for

all. In his state of the nation address, His Excellency

President Cyril Ramaphosa said that, agriculture is one of the

industries with the greatest potential of growth. In addition,



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agriculture can help us to fight hunger and reduce poverty,

impact lives and livelihoods by raising incomes and improved

food security for 80% of the world’s poor, who live in rural

and peri-urban areas. Agriculture plays a critical role in

food security, and 80% of the world’s food is grown on small

family farms. This is why it is important for government to

support all players in the agricultural sector, and

acknowledge their role in ensuring peace and stability of our

beloved South Africa.

Since the dawn of our democracy, we have made great leaps and

strides to ensure robust and strong agricultural systems, and

agricultural extension programmes that benefit and empower

vulnerable small-scale farmers and their families. Hon House

Chair, under the leadership of the Hon Minister Thoko Didiza,

the agricultural sector must address increased production in

the agricultural sector, as well as improving market access

and maintaining existing markets.

According to the Food and Agricultural Organisation, FAO, in

so far as improving agricultural production levels, we are

already facing widespread hunger and poverty in South Africa,

coupled with the realities of global, continental and regional



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situations, the task is daunting. This is in addition to the

projection that show that, feeding a world population of

9,1 billion people in 2050 would require, raising the overall

food production by some 70% between 2005, 2007 and 2050.

Production in the developing countries like South Africa will

need to almost double. This implies significant increases in

the production of several key commodities. Annual cereal

production for instance, would have to grow by almost

1 billion tons. Meat production by over 200 million tons to a

total of 470 million tons in 2050, 72% of which in the

developing countries is up from the 58% today. Our approach

hon members cannot be accidental and per chance. We must

ensure that the ... [Inaudible] ...of poverty, hunger, and

hopelessness is systematically eradicated. Our agricultural

sector as a whole, has a pivotal role to play in this regard.

Hon House Chair, we have made great strides in improving

access to new markets for our agricultural products. Over the

past decade, South Africa’s agricultural products gained

access into new markets with trading partners globally. This

is largely due to the continued support through government

interventions and collaborations, between the government and



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the private sector. During this period, trade protocols were

negotiated and new markets especially in Asia, which opened

for citrus, pome fruits, and table grapes. China in Vietnam. I

knew lucrative markets for South Africa's table grapes, while

citrus and pome markets have been steadily increasing in China

and the Philippines.

Some of the commodities that penetrated new markets also

feature among the prioritised commodities as per the

Agriculture and Agro-processing Master Plan. Commodities with

potential in the strategic countries in Africa are maize,

cane, beet sugar as well as fresh apples. However, realisation

of the full potential requires that trade barriers are

resolved. South Africa faces high tariff rates and nontariff

barriers in many countries of strategic importance.

In addition to open markets in Asia, South Africa has

potential, realistic export opportunities with other African

countries under the African Continental Free Trade Area

Agreement. The strategic markets which South Africa can trade

in agricultural commodities include East Africa that being

Kenya, in North Africa or the Maghreb region, we need to focus

on Morocco, Egypt, Libya, and in West Africa or the ECOWAS, we



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must be focusing our efforts to Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea,

Senegal, Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

Hon House Chair, we can never realise the two aforementioned

strategic goals of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform

and Rural Development, namely being, increasing agricultural

production and improved market access without doing more of

capacity building in our agricultural sector. The department

has made great efforts to ensure that skills development and

training in the agricultural sector is viewed as a catalyst,

ensuring capacity building for land reform beneficiaries and

enhancing the industrial output in the agricultural sector.

The skills revolution within the agricultural sector and acts

as a clear catalyst towards the development of the agro-

processing sector. This would also not be possible without the

progress that is being made around infrastructure projects in

the agricultural colleges, and enhancing our research capacity

and capability. Skills and infrastructure are the two

catalytic elements to unlock our strategic goals have

increased production and improved access to markets. His

Excellency President Ramaphosa said that, one of the pillars

of the economic reconstruction and development is



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infrastructure-led development, and agriculture infrastructure

becomes a key priority in this regard.

Hon House Chair, the department is mandated to ensure that the

success of the AgriBEE Fund in order to support black emerging

farmers. We have to do more to ensure greater accessibility in

this finding by black and emerging farmers. We must do more to

ensure the success of the comprehensive agricultural support

programme. Through this programme, government needs to seek to

ensure increased creation of wealth in the rural agricultural

communities, create sustainable employment, improve on his

foreign trade account, as well as reduce poverty and

inequality in the ownership of the land and agricultural

enterprise, thereby dismantling the agricultural monopolies.

The productivity of the agricultural land and the economic

development of our farming communities, cannot unfold in the

face of hostilities between the farmers, farm workers and farm

dwellers. There is a need to improve on these antagonistic

relations and help reach in the words of His Excellency

President Ramaphosa:



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A new consensus that will drive all stakeholders towards

making a contribution in helping to grow our agricultural

sector.

Together with our sister Portfolio Committee on Employment and

Labour, we will be conducting a joint oversight operation into

the living and working conditions of farm workers, farm

dwellers and the farmers. We hope that at the end of our

oversight work, Parliament will deal with all the challenges

faced and experienced by our farming and agricultural

communities, posing a direct threat to the productivity of

those affected farms and their economic livelihoods. In order

to realise an increased investment in agriculture, we need to

ensure we reduce the high levels of crime and violence in the

productive sectors of our cultural economy.

Hon House Chair, water rights remain a critical challenge to

our goal of a transformed agricultural sector. Therefore, we

must ensure access to water rights by smallholder producers.

This will enable us to enhance agricultural output and address

our food security on the sustainable basis.



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Finally, honourable house chair the recent events of the

KwaZulu-Natal floods remind us of the realities of climate

change. The impact on our urban communities and rural farmers

has been devastating. As this phenomenon became more common,

we must seriously look into the efficacy of our strategies for

adaptation and mitigation plans to deal with disaster

management. Hon House Chair, I table before this House this

Budget Vote Report for Vote 29 of the Department of

Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development for

consideration and for adoption by this House. I thank you.

Ms A STEYN: We all know how the apartheid state’s policy of

separate development gave effect to legislation that set aside

13% of the country’s land for the use and occupation of the

African majority. But for a few negligible exceptions,

Africans were not permitted to occupy or own land outside the

13% land area reserved for them.

The Native Trust and Land Act empowered the apartheid

government to place in trust the land reserved for use by

Africans. The apartheid state passed the Bantu Homelands

Citizenship Act in terms of which every African was stripped

of South African citizenship.



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In its place, they were assigned citizenship of a homeland of

the ethnic group to which they belonged, irrespective of

whether there were any links between them and such homeland.

In this way, many Africans became foreigners in the land of

their birth.

This is our history and the reason why we worked hard to

negotiate one of the best Constitutions in the world.

The founding provision of our Constitution states:

“The Republic of South Africa is one, sovereign,

democratic state founded on the values of human dignity,

the achievement of equality and the advancement of human

rights and freedoms.”

Nice words and a great ideal to have but unfortunately this is

not the current reality of millions of black South Africans

still living as second class citizens fighting to have tenure

security and their dignity restored.

The apartheid period skewed ownership patterns is still in

effect today. We only have to look at recent court judgements

to see and understand how little things have changed under our



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new democratically elected government. How the ANC government

treats the aspirations of black South Africans that want to

become full owners of their land?

On 11 June 2021, the court found that the Ingonyama Trust

acted unlawfully in issuing leases to people who are already

the true and beneficial owners of the land in terms of Zulu

customary law.

The judgment, authored by Deputy Judge President Isaac

Madondo, went beyond that, to also say that the way leases

were issued abrogated citizens’ constitutional rights to

tenure security, such as the informal rights to land which are

protected by the 1996 Interim Protection of Informal Land

Rights Act, and the rights of people with old-order Permission

to Occupy, PTO, certificates.

The court also found that Minister Didiza did not protect the

rights of residents living on ITB, Ingonyama Trust Board, land

and gave her three months to rectify this situation. What have

you done so far Minister?



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This judgement is important as it has enormous ramifications

for the tenure security of the 12 million South Africans

living in all former homeland areas. Not only has no effort

been made to change the 1996 interim protection law into more

permanent legislation, no real effort has been made to survey

and register the 7,7 million hectares of land in order to make

it easy to record rights once a system is found to record

permanent rights.

But it is not only people living on former homeland land that

is affected by the unwillingness of the ANC to give permanent

tenure security or title deeds to those that want to have that

security.

In its judgment, in the case between Rakgase and the Minister

of Land Reform, the court stated that, I quote:

“Despite the contents of the various programmes and

strategies, the evidence in this case confirms the

ineffectiveness of either these policies or their

implementation and that land reform, despite it being

constitutional imperative, has been slow and

frustratingly so”.



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From the judgment it is clear that ample opportunity exists to

develop well-reasoned policy and legislation to give effect to

land redistribution, land development and the eradication of

spatial inequality.

It is clear not only from these judgements, but also during

interactions with farmers and community members on the ground,

that the slow pace of land reform is due to numerous

governance failures, a lack of capacity in government

departments, effective monitoring and evaluation, and

political will and leadership.

According to a written answer by Minister Didiza, the

department is the custodian of 10,4 million hectares of land

of which only 112 000 hectares was transferred and

1,29 million ha made available for leases in the past five

years.

This Department spends 20.6% of its total budget on

administration, which is the second largest allocation of its

total appropriation for 2022/23. The ongoing chaotic

management of land administration and constant under



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achievement of targets is a direct reflection on the poor

strategic leadership of this Department.

The DA is clear in its position that that the failure of land

reform is not the consequence of any constitutional

deficiency, nor is it due to the government’s lack of funds to

compensate owners for land purchased.

We need political will to bring about clear land

transformation, we need to provide certainty that property

rights will be protected, and that expropriated land will be

compensated and follow due process.

We need to acknowledge that the transfer of land alone will

not secure the economic success of an agricultural enterprise.

Knowledge, skills, infrastructure, markets, equipment, and

access to water for irrigation is required to successfully

farm on commercial scale, all of which forms part of post-

settlement support and that is currently not happening.

South Africa belongs to all who live in it and we will

continue to fight for the protection and expansion of

individual property rights for all. For reasons of justice,



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fairness and for the future prosperity of South Africa. Thank

you

Mr N S MATIASE: Hon House Chairperson, the EFF rejects Budget

Vote No 29 of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

It is an uninspiring budget, fundamentally out of touch with

the reality of land and agricultural challenges the country

faces. At the core of these challenges is lack of political

will by this department to take tough decisions to salvage the

little that is left of South African agriculture and to

fundamentally restructure the entire structure of the agrarian

economy to ensure that land reform is widely redistributive

and that agriculture is largely responsible for speed sparking

growth in the country side.

To put matters to context South Africa has seen a dramatic

decline in the number of agricultural producers over the past

decade. The dairy sector is one of the most seriously affected

with about 73% decline in a number of dairy farmers in the

country. These numbers are declining because most of these

farms are bought by bigger enterprises who want to consolidate

and monopolise agricultural production.



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However, in real terms, lead to a dramatic reduction in the

country’s ability to produce what it needs. The result is that

we now import basic products that we use to export as a

country. This could be corrected if the country were to

revisit its decision to deregulate the agricultural sector and

provide subsidies to agricultural producers.

There is no agricultural economy anywhere in the world that

has developed without massive state regulation and investment.

It is foolish to think that ours would grow and meet the

demands of this generation without massive state support. The

state support needed for a restructured agriculture, must

however follow a massive and unrepentant programme of land

redistribution in this country.

It is inexcusable and treasonous that today, 28 years since

1994, white people still own over 70% of agricultural land in

this country. While African people, the primary subjects of

land dispossession, own a little more than 4% of the land.

There is no determined effort in this and in pervious budgets,

to drastically scale up land redistribution. There is no

policy or programmatic departure from the redundancy of the



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past two decades. At this pace, it would take over 100 years

just to redistribute a mere 30% of land back to the African

people.

We need a radical policy shift and that hon Minister, cannot

be premised on your childish view sponsored by Johann Kirsten

from Stellenbosch that land reform can be successful, if

premised on a policy encourage white farmers to donate land

for land reform purposes.

White farmers are beneficiaries of a wide colonial land

dispossession and apartheid forced removals. They knowingly

...

[Interjections.]

Ms K D MAHLATSI: Hon Chair, on a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Matiase, there is

a point of order. Just allow me to take this point of order

please!

Mr N S MATIASE: I need to think that today is nonsensical ...



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The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Matiase, hon

Matiase.

Mr N S MATIASE: ... to give away the stolen land.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Matiase, I want to

take a point of order. Can you just hold on, so that I take a

point of order! Yes, hon member.

Ms K D MAHLATSI: Hon Chair, the hon member referred to the hon

Minister as childish. I think it is unparliamentary and he

must withdraw.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Mahlatsi, I will

come back to the point of order, please proceed hon Matiase.

Mr N S MATIASE: It is naïve to think that today, white people

have some humanity and some sense of guilt to give away this

stolen land back to African people. It will simply never

happen. We need to expropriate land without compensation to

resolve the century’s old land question in this country. That

is the only viable principle upon which a thorough going



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programme of land redistribution and rural development can

happen.

We offered you and when I say you I mean the ANC - this

opportunity to change for good. The nature of land

redistribution in this country and you declined it in favour

of your white financiers. However, what is more despicable is

that you are refusing to do the bare minimum even within the

limits of the sell-out constitutional order in as far as land

is concerned.

You have up to this day refused to develop an all-encompassing

legislative framework to secure tenure rights of people living

under strenuous tenure conditions on farms and in the former

homelands.

You have dragged your feet in developing an overarching land

redistribution legislation to guide the government’s land

reform programme.

You have allowed people such as Jerome Ngwenya the erstwhile

Chairperson of the Ingwenyama Trust Board to continue



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mismanaging the affairs of the board, thereby bringing it into

disrepute the honourable name of the Zulu Royal Family.

You have refused to develop a comprehensive programme of pre

and postsettlement support to the few beneficiaries of land.

You have put into abeyance indefinitely the settlement of the

land claims, you opportunistically reopened in 2014 raising

expectations of people of things you knew very well you had no

intention of delivering.

You have failed in every imaginable aspect of land reform and

the electorate must finally see you for who you are and what

you represent. We reject this Budget Vote and reject the ANC

and its falsehood. Thanks, hon Chairperson.

Inkosi R N CEBEKHULU: Hon Chairperson and members of the

portfolio committee ...

*IsiZulu*:

... nomphakathi oyingxenye yesigcawu ukulalela inkulumo

yanamhlanje.



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*English*:

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development has for a number of years let the people of our

country down. Whilst we welcome and note the year-on-year

positive developments within the agricultural sector in

growing and contributing to the gross domestic product, GDP,

the line function departments and entities that now make up

this department are suffering. Land reform and the restitution

of land to the people of our country has taken far too long to

effect change in the lives of millions who were left destitute

and disenfranchised.

*IsiZulu*:

Mhlonishwa Sihlalo siyadinga ukuba udaba lwamapulazi

ayegazethiwe akasuqashiswa ngoba lokho akwehli kahle

emphakathini owawufake izicelo. Okufanelekile ukuthi

lamapulazi kumele adluliselwe kulabo bantu ababe fake izicelo

ngawo. Uma kuliqiniso ukuthi umthetho awuvumi ukuba abe

esathinthwa impela akubenjalo.

*English*:

Hon Chairperson, the matters arising from the committee report

on this budget are all noted and must be duly implemented in



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order to ensure that the process of land reform takes place as

intended, and that the development of rural towns, villages

and communities takes centre stage.

In relation to section 25 of the Constitution, I would like to

remind this House that land reform must take place as was

intended many years ago, with reasonable compensation.

In terms of agriculture, we should be mindful of the

devastating effects that climate change will have on this

sector and its ability to feed South Africa. We must ensure

that enough funds are available for climate proofing our

farmers and for protecting the export market of our

agricultural goods.

Let me not beat around the bush when it comes to the biggest

challenge faced by the current administration of our country,

and that is the cancer of corruption within the system. It

must be stressed that we will not move forward if this cancer

is not treated and completely eradicated.

*IsiZulu*:



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Sihlalo, ngibuyele odabeni oluthinta umhlaba ongaphansi kwe-

Ingonyama Trust. Liqiniso elingephikwe ukuthi igcunswana nje

labantu abakhwela emagqumeni bamemeze ukuthi abanawo

amalungelo abantu abahleli ngaphansi komhlaba weNgonyama

Trust. Akulona iqiniso lokho. Abantu abahleli laphaya

bathakasile, abanangxaki ngokuhlala kwabo emhlabathini

ongaphansi kweNgonyama Trust.

Labo abakhokhiswa ngokuhlala lapho yilabo abahwebayo kuphela,

ngoba basebhizinisini. Akubekhona izinto abazifakayo

esikhwameni seNgonyama Trust ukuze ikwazi ikuqhubeka nokuletha

izinto eziyisidingo emphakathini owakhelwe iNgonyama Trust.

Ngakho ke kufanele sikuqonde futhi ukuthi akufanele abantu

bakhulume sengathi bathathisa ezimvweni zabantu abathile.

Kuphela yilelo qoqwana elinamathuba okuxhaswa kodwa lihambe

lifafaza umoya ongaphelele wokuthi abantu abahleli ezindaweni

zamakhosi ngaphansi kweNgonyama Trust, labo bantu

abakhululekile, abakwazi ukuphatha nokusebenzisa umhlabathi

ngendlela yabo. Wonke umuntu ohleli kulo mhlabathi uhlala

ekhululekile.

Asikugweme ke lokhu ukuthi kube kuyasa njalo abantu bacakafula

isakhiwo okungathi sinamaphutha esinawo. Akukho iphutha



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ekuphathweni komhlabathi ongaphansi kweNgonyama Trust.

Kuliqiniso ke Sihlalo wami ukuthi abantu abahleli kulo

mhlabathi ongaphansi kweNgonyama Trust abalalelwe uma ngabe

banikezwa ithuba lokukhuluma ukuze bakwazi ukuthi izimvo zabo

zaziwe yinoma ngubani. Sihlalo, ngale kwalokho iqembu leNkatha

lizwakalisa ukwesekela nokuncoma isabelomali salo Mnyango

esikhishiwe kulo nyaka. Ngiyathokoza kakhulu.

*English*:

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member.

An HON MEMBER: What’s that now?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): [Inaudible.] ...

delivering his speech to the House, a point of order was

raised. I have subsequently checked with the NA Table Staff.

The member referred to the Minister’s childish ... The point

of order is thus not sustained. I now call on the next speaker

and that is the hon T Breedt. The hon Breedt?

Ms T BREEDT: Thank you, Chairperson. I believe that I found a

quote I can agree with by a person whom my colleagues from the

ruling party benches might even listen to. He was an Irish



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politician, but a socialist and a trade unionist at that. At

the turn of the previous century he said, “Agriculture was the

first occupation of man, and as it embraces the whole earth,

it is the foundation of all other industries”. This also

underscores what Bernard Baruch, famous for being an American

financier and foreign policy advisor to Presidents Wilson,

Roosevelt and Truman, said:

Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most

important of our industries. The cities are but the branches

of the tree of national life, the roots of which go deeply

into the land. We all flourish or decline with the farmer.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development has a back to front approach when it comes to

addressing problems and starting projects. Land reform

projects, the Agricultural and Agro-Processing Master Plan,

the Cannabis Master Plan and all its facets, agri-BEE ...

[Inaudible.] ... the National Rural Youth Service Corps,

Narysec, to name but a few, are all examples hereof.

*Afrikaans*:



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Die departement gaan beslis ... [nhoorbaar.] ... funksies en

die provinsies, sowel as hul begrotings seker blameer vir hul

tekortkominge**,** maar die punt bly steeds dat die departement

faal sy landbouers en gevolglik die land en sy ekonomie.

*English*:

Michelle Grainger of the North Carolina Sweet Potato

Commission said, “Farmers not only produce the food and fibre

we need but they help ensure our national security and

economic stability”. It would do this department good to

remember it.

However, ... to briefly highlight the programmes and the

allocated appropriations. The purpose of programme 2 is to

oversee livestock production, game farming, animal and plant

health, natural resources and disaster management. Programme

2 receives approximately 14% of the total Vote appropriation.

Despite its important role in promoting agricultural

production, managing biosecurity and sector-related risks,

plant and animal diseases and pests, including disasters, the

budget allocation of programme 2 has been stagnant and will

further decline by an average of 1% over the Medium-Term

Expenditure Framework, MTEF, period, taking into account the



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foot-and-mouth disease, FMD, outbreak, to name but one of the

recent disease outbreaks, the ongoing locust problem, the

issues experienced daily by veterinarians regarding vaccines,

our revoked Office International des Epizooties, OIE,

certificate concerning FMD and the most recent banning of our

exports, specifically noting the banning of our wool to China,

our greatest exporter of wool. Also, being reminded that our

wool industry is an almost R5 billion industry, this

allocation as well as the findings in terms of monitoring and

evaluation is a matter of grave concern.

There is also a misalignment between financial resource

allocation and performance targets among and within

departmental programmes. For example, the administration

programme receives a larger budget than programme 2. That is a

programme central to agriculture. A total of 57% of

administration’s budget goes to the compensation of employees,

yet monitoring and evaluation within the department is weak.

It remains a challenge and will continue to affect

accountability and service delivery; accountability that needs

to assess and oversee 53% of the total budget that goes to

transfers and subsidies that includes the interventions



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implemented by provinces. We cannot afford to have transferred

funds not being optimally used.

Programme 3 that speaks to food security also has a waning

budget that is continually being ill-spent. We will never

achieve true food security, not in a greater or household

sense, if this remains the case.

*Afrikaans*:

Voorsitter, ons kan verder vir dae aangaan oor die entiteite

befondsing ... [Onhoorbaar.] ... van hul magte en bevoegdhede

of werklike mandate en wat hulle eintlik met hulle daar maak.

Entiteite soos die *Landbounavorsingsraad, LNR,* word

onderbefonds en ... [Onhoorbaar.] ... deur die departement wat

eerder van buite diensverskaffers gebruik maak. Die navorsing

wat die LNR gedoen het rondom klimaatsverandering, weerpatrone

aan ons kuslyn en verskeie faktore, kon gehelp het om die

KwaZulu-Natal ramp te voorkom as die departement maar net na

sy entiteite geluister het.

Dan het ons nog nie eers begin vrae vra rondom die eersteklas

inentingsfabriek wat sedert 2015 in wording is, steeds begroot

word en nog nie ’n stap verder gevorder het nie, of die bek-



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en-klouseer fasiliteit wat ook al jare in wording is en al

miljoene rand gekos het, of die Landbou Meesterplan wat op

nommer 99 verander is omdat sekere landbou organisasies nie

daarmee saamgestem het nie, en basta met die res van hulle.

Voorsitter, die probleem is die ANC, want die ANC pak alles

ideologies in plaas van ekonomies aan en ... [Onhoorbaar.] ...

die Minister en haar departement nie hierdie kopskuif gaan

maak nie, gaan alle landbouers vir altyd gefaal word. Ek sluit

af. ’n Volk wat vir sy landbou sorg, sorg vir sy toekoms. Ek

dank u.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT (Mr M Skwatsha): House Chairperson, hon Minister

Didiza, Deputy Minister Capa, Ministers and Deputy Ministers

on the platform, hon Chairperson of the portfolio committee,

board members of our state-owned entities, SOEs, senior

officials of the department, distinguished guests, ladies and

gentlemen.

Very interesting fundamental day that we have today,

discussing the department and more specially, my emphasis on

the section of the land. I so often feel that South Africa is



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blessed with [Inaudible.] a measured, matured government like

the democratically elected government which is able to

sanitize things that come from the far right and issues that

come from the far left. We are the mainstream, providing

proper solutions to this country.

Hon House Chair, allow me, since others have also, to quote

something important about the land ...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister,

may I request whoever is controlling the visuals coming from

where you are speaking to correct it; and until then they must

rather switch off your camera, please. You don’t come across

visually very well on the platform at the moment. Can they

please sort it out? And in the meantime switch off the video

so that we can continue with the debate.

Hon Hope Papo, you have your hand up! Hon Papo?

Mr A H M PAPO: No, I never raised it, Chair.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Your hand is up, hon

Hope Papo.



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Hon members, may you lower your hands please, because it seems

to me you don’t know why you raising your hands.

Mr A H M PAPO: Hon Chair, I wanted to raise the same issue you

raise to the Deputy Minister, but you have addressed it.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon Papo.

Hon Deputy Minister, please continue with your video screen

off until the time that it is properly fixed. Please continue,

hon Deputy Minister!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT (Mr M Skwatsha): Hon House Chairperson, I was

about to go into the quote that I had isolated. The quote goes

as follows:

Without freedom we want no life, without dignity we want no

life, without justice we want no life, without bread for our

children we want no life, without a future we want no life,

that is why we say fatherland or death.



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Fidel Castro addressing the 4th anniversary of the Cuban

revolution.

Hon members, with this quote I just want to illustrate to

anyone who still doubts the fundamental importance of the

land. In the length and breadth of our country, when the issue

of the land was discussed, we could see multitudes of our

people attending and with one voice, we want our land.

Land is key for human settlements, land is key for

agricultural production, land is key for economic growth, land

is key for cultural purposes, land is key for environmental

purposes.

To indicate the seriousness with which the President regard

the issue of land, he went to establish an Inter-Ministerial

Committee on Land chaired by none other than the Deputy

President to work in an integrated manner and to fast-track

the release of the land.

Although we are heartened with not having been able to succeed

in the vote on section 25, we still believe that the



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resolution of the problems of our country is making sure that

land is shared on an equitable basis.

The point that one is trying to make is ... made by the

President, the persisting inequalities in the manner in which

land is owned, managed and transacted, remains one of the

contentious issues to be resolved.

I now wish to draw your attention to some of our key

programmes on land redistribution and land acquisition. To

achieve the goal of equitable access to the land as enshrined

in the Constitution, our department acquires and allocates

land under the Land Redistribution programme.

In the 2020-21 financial year we have reported that we

acquired 22 000 hectares of land. We have improved on our

acquisition by over 100% from our previous financial year by

acquiring 57 000 hectares of land through Pro-active Land

Acquisition Strategy, PLAS, in the 2021-22 financial year.

This achievement is just a drop in the ocean and we are

complacent about it as we know that inequitable access to land

remains the main challenge in this country.



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Regarding the land allocation, in line with our national

policy for beneficiary selection, we continue to ensure land

allocation targets the vulnerable members of the society and

to that extend, 39 000 hectares of PLAS land allocated, over

50% of this land was allocated to targeted vulnerable groups.

It is our desired goal to improve on this as we implement the

policy.

We will continue to target areas where there are huge land

disparities, especially in the communal peri-urban and rural

areas. Our department had to make additional funding to this

programme through budget reprioritization to ensure that more

land is required. In the current financial a budget of

R366 million has been set aside for land redistribution.

In support of the rapid release of state land to enhance land

reform, in support of the initiative to release underutilized

and vacant state land, the department has allocated 679 943

hectares of 700 000 hectares of agricultural land to various

farmers, co-operatives, entities, communities including

vulnerable groups like farm dwellers and labour tenants.



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Regarding the tenure reform, we have set aside a budget of

R270 million for the acquisition of land to address security

of tenure. In this regard, the department intends to acquire

5 000 hectares of land in the current financial year.

The land acquired for security of tenure addresses different

land tenure needs, including settlement of the labour tenants’

application and Extension of Security of Tenure Act, ESTA,

occupiers.

Regarding the Community Property Associations, CPAs: the

department recognises the challenges facing Community Property

Associations within the limited budget. We continue to ensure

that CPAs are capacitated and supported to be compliant with

the Act. Led by our Minister we have got into a programme of

visiting all CPAs throughout the country. We have so far

visited three provinces and that work continues.

Last year we said that we will audit CPAs over a two-year

period. This current financial year is year two of that work.

Currently, more than 1 500 CPAs have been established and

registered nationally. In the past financial year we supported

581 CPAs against our target of 577. And we will further train



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585 members on governance of these CPAs in the current

financial year.

As government we are concerned about governance issues within

CPAs and we are at one with the portfolio committee and select

committee when they raise such serious concerns. We will

continue to grapple with governance issues and mediation of

disputes. For us, we consider that as dealing with the symptom

and not the actual cause of the problem.

The fundamental question that we might need to face, perhaps,

is: At this time to consider whether CPAs are the best land

holding model? Is it not time to consider sub-divisions in

certain instances? For example, where family members have been

brought into a legal entity and they experience continuous

disagreements to the detriment of the business enterprise.

Another major worry is that when beneficiaries have acquired

land through the various land reform programmes, they turn

around to defeat the very same objectives of land reform,

including not utilising the land or leasing it out for mere

[Inaudible.] rental income.



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In saying so, I’m [Inaudible.] to add that a lot of support

needs to be provided to CPAs. More thinking needs to go into

how we make them functional or whether they are the best

holding model, given governance challenges.

Despite these difficulties, there are positive areas, there

are success stories. For example, the Kgatle CPA in the

Greater Tzaneen and Tshivhula CPA in Musina were able to

resolve their governance issues and compliance challenges, and

as a result, they were able to attract investors and thus

created jobs for beneficiaries.

Regarding farm dwellers, the department will prioritise ESTA

awareness campaigns to create awareness and curb illegal farm

evictions. We’ll also provide legal representation to farm

dwellers through Legal Aid SA and mediation services.

On the 26th of March 2022 I was in Belfast, Mpumalanga, at

Paarde Plaas and Rietfontein farms where we handed over 35

housing units to farm dwellers and labour tenants. These

beneficiaries had been living in mud houses all along and are

now staying in proper brick houses. [Applause.]



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The department will expedite land acquisition for farm

dwellers to provide long-term security of tenure. The

department will also expedite the piloting of agri-villages in

eviction hotspots of KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and

Mpumalanga provinces. [Applause.]

Regarding communal land tenure, government’s position paper on

land administration and communal tenure was approved by

Cabinet for further consultation with traditional leadership,

traditional communities, civil society organizations and other

interest groups, and the consultative process has been

completed, which will lead into the much anticipated national

summit, which is going to take place very, very soon at the

end of this month.

The development of the communal land tenure policy and the

communal land tenure Bill has commenced and awaiting the

national summit consultations before moving on with the

approval processes.

Regarding restitution, the commission on restitution of land

rights is established by section 4 of the Restitution of Land

Rights Act of 1994 and I quote that section:



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A person or community dispossessed of property after 19

June 1913 as a result of past racially discriminatory laws

or practices is entitled to the extend provided by an Act

of Parliament either to restitution of that property or to

equitable redress.

Notwithstanding the challenges presented by COVID-19 virus and

the attended state of disaster regulations, the commission was

able to achieve and exceed its 2021-22 annual performance

targets, achieving 103% on the settlement of land claims and

106% on the target of finalizing land claims.

Let me go to the issue of the commission and the progress

towards autonomy. To deal with organizational structure that

does not align with section 4 and 21 of the founding

legislation that envisions an autonomous entity, [Inaudible.]

are instituted and organizational form subproject whose

outcome seeks to transform the commission into an autonomous

public entity. A business case which details the proposed

design and cost implications of setting up the commission as

an autonomous entity has been developed and submitted to both

the Department of Public Service and Administration, DPSA, and

the National Treasury for further processing.



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Regarding the Office of the Valuer-General, in the recent past

the Minister has admitted the challenges impacting negatively

on service delivery at the Office of the Valuer-General. In

the past year we began to implement a turnaround strategy and

we are now reaping the fruits. The 2021 allocation has

assisted the Office of the Valuer-General to improve its

performance regarding personnel and systems. The Office of the

Valuer-General was able to eliminate the valuations backlog

inherited since inception, improve its audit outcomes, improve

its management and internal processes, implemented evaluations

tracking system.

Currently we have 21 valuers in the employment of the Office

of the Valuer-General. [Applause.] However, we still do have

vacancies. This helps us to mitigate the risk we are exposed

to in the past.

The R107 million allocation in 2022-23 will be used for

further strengthening the organization. When all is said and

done, our stakeholders want to see an improved turnaround

time.



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Hon Chairperson, I am excited to hear hon Steyn ...

[Interjections.]

Ms A STEYN: Hon Chairperson, on a point of order. Hon

Chairperson, you did mention at the start of this debate that

we are in the House and that when are in the House people on

the gallery cannot participate. So, I see the Deputy Minister

brought himself a whole house full of people clapping. Can we

ask that, that be stopped, please?

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Thank you, hon member.

Hon members, we allow that there are members on the platform

who participate, but we do not allow guests, whether they are

on the virtual platform, in the Ministry or elsewhere to be

part of the proceedings. So, let’s just stick to the rules as

all of us know it.

You may proceed, hon Deputy Minister, and you have just less

than a minute left. Please proceed!

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT (Mr M Skwatsha): Thank you, hon Chair. I just wat

to indicate that ... in fact I actually thought when I heard



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people clapping I thought it was hon Steyn and others because

I did not bring anyone here.

Hon Chair, I just want to say that I hear some members ... the

FF-Plus member, hon Breedt, saying that this is a problem of

the ANC. Closer look and study of our own history will

indicate that these are ancestors of some people that might

have closer proximity to hon Breedt. The ANC is cleaning up a

mess created by apartheid colonialism, hon Steyn and hon

Breedt [Time expired.] Thank you very much, hon Chair.

Mr S N SWART: House Chair, with your permission I will leave

the camera off due to connection issues. House Chair, the ACDP

would like to pay tribute to all the farmers, commercial and

emerging, along the whole agricultural sectors and all those

along the value chain who continue to provide food to South

Africans. South Africa has the highest level of food security

in sub-Saharan Africa and is a net exporter of food, and for

this we can be grateful.

*Afrikaans*:

Ons sê aan ons boere dat ons baie, baie dankbaar is.



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*English*:

However, the Russia-Ukraine War has raised concern about

escalating global food insecurity as these countries are major

exporters of grains, oil seeds, fertilisers and crude oil.

Since the war started, the prices of these commodities have

risen significantly, and South Africa, interlinked in the

global commodities market, is exposed to these price

increases. The grain and oilseed plantings in KwaZulu-Natal

have also suffered due to the heavy recent rains, leading to

delays in harvesting. There are also pre-existing constraints

to agriculture growth, which include inefficiencies in state

administration, infrastructure issues, security, and

geopolitics.

Despite the fact that South Africa is a net exporter of food,

there are roughly 6 million people in the country who do not

have enough food to eat. What even more alarming is that,

according to the latest data available to the national

Department of Health, 199 children died from malnutrition in

the first two months of this year, with KwaZulu-Natal hardest

hit. This is probably the tip of the iceberg with the

department saying it was concerned that many more child deaths



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might occur away from its facilities, especially in rural

districts.

It is a shame that the government donates millions of rand to

foreign countries when some 6 million people in the country do

not have enough to eat. Families are destitute in our own

country, and children are dying increasingly of malnutrition

in the country. Surely, hon Minister, charity must begin at

home, and more resources should be directed to ensure our

population is not starving. People go hungry not because food

is expensive or scarce, but because as Agricultural Economist

Wandile Sihlobo states I quote:

Households simply do not have the income. Even if

something costs R2, to a man without R2 that is

unaffordable.

The ACDP agrees. But, whose responsibility is it to feed the

hungry? While the government bears the lion’s share of

responsibility, it cannot do it alone. The private sector,

civil society and ordinary people need to assist in tackling

the issue. Food donations to organisations that feed the



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hungry should be encouraged. The ACDP is playing its role in

this regard.

Lastly, the ACDP wishes in addition all the farmers in

providing food security, to thank all those that are donating

food particularly following the devastating floods in KwaZulu-

Natal. You are the true heroes. Thank you House Chair.

*IsiXhosa*:

Nksz B TSHWETE: Sihlalo weNdlu yoWiso-mthetho yesizwe ...

*Englis*h:

... Ministers and Deputy Ministers, members of the House. Hon

Chair, the 1955 Freedom Charter says that, the land must be

shared among those who work it. It further says, ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... abalimi mabancediswe ngembewu nezixhobo zokulima.

*English*:

The 1992 ANC Ready to Govern Policy Guidelines says that, the

ANC government will pursue increased agricultural

productivity, ensured food security and further pursue a



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policy of land redistribution to ensure that all South

Africans have equitable access to land. South Africa’s

progressive land reform policy has three pillars, which are

land restitution, land redistribution, and security of land

tenure rights.

*IsiXhosa*:

Sikhumbuzane ke Sihlalo ukuba ...

*English*:

... this Parliament has passed the enabling legislation on

land restitution in terms of provisions of section 25(7 of the

Constitution of the Republic of the country. The piece of

legislation is known as the Restitution of Land Rights Act,

Act 22 of 1994

*IsiXhosa*:

Ndincedisa ke Sihlalo ela lungu belisithi akukho nomthetho

othetha ngale nto.

*English*:

The purpose of the country’s land distribution programme, as

stated in the White Paper on South African Land Policy of



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1997, is to provide the poor with the land for residential and

productive purposes in order to improve their livelihood.

*IsiXhosa*:

Umohluko ke phakathi kwethu siyi-ANC namaqela aphikisayo kule

Palamente ...

*English*:

... is in our outlook.

*IsiXhosa*:

Thina sibona imiceli-mingeni, bona babona ukwahluleka.

*English*:

With every challenge, there is an opportunity, an opportunity

to create a better South Africa for all where everyone gets an

opportunity to share in the economic benefits of the country.

The land restitution program is about ensuring the equitable

redress for the historical injustice of land dispossession.

*IsiXhosa*:



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Asizi kuthetha into engavakaliyo kwaye, singazi kuhlafuna

manzi xa sithetha ngomba womhlaba. Umhlaba wona mawubuyele

ebantwini.

*English*:

Our immediate concern has always been around the productivity

of the land reform project. It is only a through productive

use of the land that our people’s lives can be improved, and

to find that guarantee, our nation’s food security. It is on

this account that the ANC will keep on emphasising the

importance of working the land. This is consistent with the

Freedom Charter and the 1992 policy guidelines.

One of the communities working the land is the Bela-Bela of

Community Property Association that is creating job

opportunities. The Communal Property Association, CPA supplies

its produced eggs to big retailers in the country. Some of the

challenges faced by the by some CPAs thus affecting

productivity, vary from noncompliance with the objectives of

the CPA’s Act ...

*IsiXhosa*:



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... ukruthakruthwano phakathi kwabo bafanele ukufumana uncedo,

ukungavani kwabo ngokuthi umhlaba bawuphuhlisa njani na ...

*English*:

... and land administration. The support given to CPAs will

ensure that many more CPAs become profitable like the Bela-

Bela CPA. The ANC in its in its 54th National Conference. has

reiterated the importance of democratising the control of

areas under communal land tenure, as well as the evaluation

and appraisal of the CPA with the intention to help reconcile

the right of community of rural communities to own land, and

to foster better relations between traditional leaders and

their respective communities.

The subprogramme on food security and agrarian reform will get

an allocation of R6,3 billion. This is the second biggest

allocation after the restitution subprogramme. There is a need

for a variable development of the agricultural sector, through

the creation and support of smallholder farmers.

In 2018, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that, the agricultural

revolution should be embedded in land reform and that

redistributed farms should be active in production. In order



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to realise the productivity of land reform, about

R27,6 billion has been allocated towards food security, land

reform and restitution

The other allocation to take note of in this budget is the

R3,7 billion towards household expenditure, through grant

funding for land acquisition and farmer development support.

Four hundred million rand will be transferred to the Land

Bank, while R2,4 billion will be in a form of transfers to the

municipal and provincial governments.

In conclusion, as the ANC we have long noted that the lack of

access to land is one of the causes of poverty, both in urban

and rural setting. In order to realise effective agrarian

reform, issues of lack of access to adequate supply of water

needs serious attention, as this has a direct impact on our

food security. The employment of new technologies can help

improve our water usage, as research shows that, vertical

farming can use about 95% less water than conventional farms,

and yields 75 times more crops per square meter. As the ANC we

stand in support of Budget Vote 29. for the Department of

Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development.



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*IsiXhosa*:

Ndiyabulela Sihlalo.

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT (Ms R N Capa): Thank you very much, hon

Chairperson, hon members, Minister Didiza, Deputy Minister

Skwatsha, Ministers and Deputy Ministers on the platform,

Chairperson of the portfolio committee and members of the

portfolio committee ...

*IsiXhosa***:**

... iikumkani kuzwelonke, iinkosi zemveli, amakhosi

namakhosazana, izizwe zomhlaba, ndiyanibulisa.

*English*:

... members of our statutory boards and councillors and ...

[Inaudible.] ... farmer organisations and chief executive

officers of commodity organisations, farmers and farmworkers,

those men and women who work and enjoy all types of weather,

senior officials of the department ...

*IsiXhosa***:**

... ndiyanibulisa nonke.



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*English*:

Chairperson, it gives me great pleasure to address this House

today on the occasion of Budget Vote 29 of the Department of

Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The state of

our rural communities is the stag reminder of the oppression

that once visited those people by the apartheid error, which

is characterised today by devils of poverty, underdevelopment

and unemployment.

Rural areas continue to bear such sculls of a brutal system,

which sought to strip black people of their dignity through

amongst others, the theft of their land, livestock and to

condemn them to be a constant supply of labour for the formal

economy.

Approximately 33,7% of South African population live in this

dusty rural areas. These communities are amongst the poorest

in our country. In fact, it does happen in many countries of

the world. But due to their limited access to social services,

including education and healthcare they remain poorer than

their counterparts’ in cities.



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The legacy of the past system of oppression subjected our

people, particularly in rural areas to underdevelopment,

unemployment and intergenerational poverty. Our government has

been working hard to address the historical challenges facing

South Africans in those rural areas by engaging in

socioeconomic processes to uplift these communities though

rural development initiatives.

We will continue to bring transformation to rural areas

through agrarian reform policies, which aims to ensure that

such communities begin to truly enjoy their liberation as

well. As a result, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform

and Rural Development is leading this charge of bringing much

needed development and support to rural communities that will

then achieve sustainable economic growth in those basis.

Chairperson, Covid-19 pandemic had a profound negative impact

on these poor and marginalised communities. The pandemic,

which remains the factor in lives of our people even today

disrupted their economy, impacted their ability to many

citizens to earn a living and caused deepened poverty in such

areas.



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As part of government support initiatives to mitigate against

effects of pandemic, the Presidential Economic Stimulus, PES,

with an agricultural support administered by our department

brought much needed relief to struggling smallholders and

subsistence farmers. Through this initiative support,

subsistence farmers were able to obtain production inputs

through a voucher system, which allow them to continue to grow

their crops, feed their animals and in turn sustain their

livelihood.

I also need to say sorry because there were some glitches and

are those who still have expired vouchers. That matter has

been attended to and we are actually sure that in the next

time we will do the best. Please bear with us. More than

50 000 subsistence farmers applied for the second phase of

this PES, which will bring further relief and ensure that jobs

are created and sustained.

Global warming and climate change are realities that we have

to address as a collective. This means the government,

traditional authorities, civil society, citizens and residence

of this country need to come together.



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We must change our living patterns and do all we can to reduce

emissions and improve human settlement planning to avoid

future catastrophic natural disaster. I do know that the

National Environmental Management Act, Nema, will also be

helpful and enabling policy that will make us to work

together, irrespective of our spheres of government or being

NGOs or traditional authorities.

But as is the outbreak of the pandemic being not enough

another disaster occurred, which affected blacks in kwaZulu-

Natal as well as Eastern Cape and North West. Our hearts and

prayers go out to all families who lost their loved ones

during the floods in KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape in April

2022. This disaster has costed lives, properties,

infrastructures and brought pains and sadness to families,

communities and our nation. We extend our appreciation to

every person and organisation who extended a helping hand to

those affected by the floods.

We know that subsistence agriculture plays an important role

in meeting the needs of the residence in rural areas. The

department plans to implement a number of projects that are

aimed at increasing jobs, developing skills and the provision



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of infrastructure development to support rural economic

transformation. The creation of jobs is critical in

alleviating poverty and improving the lives of rural

communities.

The department plays a critical role in contributing to the

creation of environment conducive for growth of rural economy.

...

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): Hon Deputy Minister,

could you just pause there, please. I see the hand of the hon

Shaik Emam is up. Hon member, why are you raising your hand?

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Sorry, Chairperson, I just want to tell you

that I was in another debate but I can be available if you can

make it possible. I couldn’t send our chart. But, sorry for

that.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr C T Frolick): So, hon member it’s a

second time today that this is happening. I will request the

Table Staff to interact with the smaller parties so that we

don’t have this disruptions during the debate so that if they

are busy in another debate we know before hand and we can slot



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them later. But, we cannot continue like this. It needs to be

managed by the Table Staff. Thank you, hon member. Please

proceed, hon Deputy Minister. And my apologies for this break.

The DEPUTY Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development (Ms R N Capa): Sorry to the smaller parties,

Chair. The creation of jobs is critical to alleviating poverty

and improving the lives of rural communities. The department

plays a critical role in contributing to the creation of

environment conducive for the growth of the rural economy.

In the 2021-22 financial year, the department completed a

total of 30 infrastructures projects that support the farmer

production support unit – 64 infrastructures projects were

completed to support the animal theft through management

programmes.

This number indeed will increase in 2022-23 financial year as

we roll out projects to further support growth and development

in rural areas that I spoke bout.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural

Development support the proposed Eastern Seaboard Development.



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That is a broad and multifaceted vision to develop a new smart

city developments initiative launched in November 2021 by the

President of the Republic of South Africa. This important

development covers the jurisdiction of four districts in

municipalities, which are the poorest indeed and rural. That’s

OR Tambo, uGu, Harry Gwala and Alfred Nzo in the Eastern Cape.

But Minister, I wish I would add Sarah baartman because that

is one coastal belt that has got similar climate conditions

and might be able to be clustered together in order to quick

serve those people.

Successful consultation engagement was held during May 2022

between traditional leadership, the Department of Agriculture,

Land Reform and Rural Development, the Department of Co-

operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Municipal

Infrastructure Support Agent, Misa, and affected district that

I have mentioned and their traditional leaders. Indeed, this

was very successful. And indeed, we have looked into their

Integrated Development Plans, IDPs, and tried to ensure that

they are ready for the project.

Chairperson, in the current financial year more than

R600 million has been allocated to Rural Infrastructure



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Development. This allocation would be directed to

infrastructure progress, including those related to animal

health management, the River Valley Catalytic Programme,

farmer producer support centre and the revitalisation of rural

towns.

In fact, this are whenever towns apartheid government was

never interested n that. This were village management boards

that were settled along the main roads. They have no land

because there was no plan to actually expand them. And we

would be attending to that. The ANC is here.

As our country battles the scourge of gender-based violence,

women and girls in rural areas have not been spurred from this

despicable social ill. One could even argue that they are even

more vulnerable than their counterparts who live in urban

areas. This is due to the underdevelopment in their

communities, which often means no access to services such as

law enforcement and medical facilities. This one is more

challenging.

Gender-based violence is the blight on the freedom, which saw

many of our comrades’ paid their ultimate price. Women and



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girls are not safe in their homes. They are not safe in their

own communities even if they are among their fathers. This

situation has to be changed and it must change. The Department

of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, as a member

of the National Rural Safety Forum has contributed to the

development of the rural safety strategy, which aligns to the

National Development Plan Vision 2030 is called to build safer

communities with particular emphasis on the protection of

vulnerable groups such as women, children and people living

with disabilities.

The next three years, this include access to roads in Limpopo

and Eastern Cape.The President has actually marshal us to

ensure that in this two we actually attend to rural roads,

surface upgrades to gravel roads in the Free State as well as

North West.

We welcome this initiative as it will go a long way towards

improving the lives of our people by allowing cheaper and

easier flow of goods and services, access to economic

opportunities and safer movement of our communities from one

village to another.



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In addition to the department, we will work with farmer

organisations, if counterparts in all spheres of government to

implement a programme of preparing and rehabilitation of rural

and farm access zones to facilitate transport and logistics

for the agricultural economy, including inputs.

In fact, Chair, I would want to say this will be very much

helpful to our people. Chairperson, our country is

experiencing records of levels of unemployment, especially

amongst the youth, women and persons with disabilities. It is

through the ... [Inaudible.] ... programme that we recruited a

youth in various Tvet colleges across the country and created

nearly 500 jobs for rural communities in 2021-22 financial

year. In this group, the department included significant

number of women and persons with disabilities.

The department also employed youth graduates and then assisted

by placing them to those farmers who benefited from Payments

for Ecosystem Services, PES, and therefore, they were creating

jobs for the young people. They were also supporting the old

in order to be able to be productive.



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Two district development model - more than 600youth were

trained through Agriculture Research Council and have been

supported with agricultural inputs. It is encouraging that 610

participants established enterprises in all our nine provinces

received support and afforded economic opportunities.

In conclusion, Chair, we will continue to collaborate with

social partners while we implemented targeted programmes and

projects, which will bring development and create jobs and job

opportunities for our rural communities. We will not rest

until poverty is eradicated, frontiers of poverty are reversed

and there is prosperity and continued the growth for all our

people. I thank you, Chair.

Mr A M SHAIK EMAM: Thank you, House Chairperson and allow me

to apologise for participating in another meeting that took

place ... [Inaudible.]

Chairperson, the NFP will support the Budget Vote tabled here

today. Allow me to commend the department for the work done in

the introduction of an electronic system for small-scale

farmers and others to be able to apply for a phytosanitary

certificate which, it would appear, will go a long way in



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ensuring and enhancing the export of goods, particularly

agricultural goods for small-scale farmers.

Now, I also want to say that what we need to do is to expedite

or accelerate the process of land reform in the country,

particularly, you know, for the Khoi and San community ...

[Inaudible.] ... people of District Six. What is disappointing

is the sale of land in the Liesbeek River which is of

significance to the Khoi and San community, and which has been

sold to the Two Rivers development.

Now, one of the matters of concern that we have in the

agricultural sector is this, and we know as a result of the

floods that took place in KwaZulu-Natal, one particular farm

... [Inaudible.] ... family-owned sugar cane farm, suffered

R20 million in crop and infrastructural damages. This farm

employs between 800 and 1 000 employees and I’m given to

understand that the Minister is intervening in this matter.

However, the concern is that small-scale cane growers in South

Africa have a distinct disadvantage as a result of the import

of sugar which is duty free from Eswatini. What is more

important to note is that some of those who are directors or

shareholders in these mills in Eswatini are big manufacturers



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that control the industry in South Africa and that have an

edge over small businesses in South Africa, which is resulting

in a jobs bloodbath. A good example is that as a result of

sugar being duty free and ... cheaper labour in Eswatini, even

the product Chappies bubble gum in South Africa is now

produced in Eswatini.

Now, we are calling on the Minister to intervene in this. We

cannot have duty-free sugar coming in from Eswatini but the

industry ... the cane growers are coming to a standstill in

the country. Surely we need to put South Africa first.

Of course, the other matter ... the concern is that we have

enough fertile soil, we have all the natural resources ... we

are importing wheat ... we are now stuck as a result of the

war that’s taking place in Russia and the Ukraine. We believe

that what should happen is that we should enhance our own

agricultural sector, make sure that there is more development

in the rural areas so people don’t have to migrate. I see my

time is up. Thank you very much, Chairperson. The NFP supports

... [Inaudible.]



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Mr N CAPA: Hon Chair, hon Minister and Deputy Ministers, hon

members, leaders of entities, officials and staff from the

department, Parliament and entities, guests and fellow South

Africans, as I greet you in this month of unity of Africa and

this month of victory over fascism, I would firstly like to

remind this House and everyone that this concept of rural

development was consciously adopted by this government to

address the urban bias in the South African situation, which

by the way, is known to be a conventional phenomenon. This

tendency was further made crude in our country by the rule of

apartheid and colonialism. In this case, the word apartheid

translated properly into English means separatism or apartism.

It has nothing to do with development.

Rural ... [Inaudible.] ... South Africa were never developed.

They were only reserves and a source of cheap labour for the

mining and manufacturing industries. They were never

developed, except by ... [Inaudible.] ... into Bantustans

which faked independence.

Given these circumstances, rural development is an integral

part of socioeconomic transformation. It is actually intended

to develop rural communities as well as the spaces they live



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in. As a result, it tallies directly with the critical

services, which include education, health, social services,

public transport, and agricultural production and food

security. The department has a number of programmes on rural

development that it implements.

*IsiXhosa*:

Xa ndisenza umzekelo phaya kwizakhiwo zikarhulumente, kufuneka

ukuba abantu basezilalini bangaphindi babenoxanduva lokuhamba

imigama emide, okanye bakhwele izithuthi imigama emide behamba

befuna ezi nkonzo. Kwakhona makuqinisekiswe ukuba amasimi

alinywayo namadlelo ayabiyelwa kwaye kuqinisekiswe ukuba

amadama akhona kumadlelo emfuyo. Makuphinde kuqinisekiswe

ukuba abantu abasezilalini basebenzisa amanzi acocekileyo.

*English*:

When it comes to youth, the department through the National

Rural Youth Service Corps, *Narysec***,** ensures that young people

in rural areas get training and skills for social

organisation, upliftment and economic development.

It is a known fact that women in rural areas are the most

underdeveloped and therefore the department wants to ensure



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that rural women have equal opportunities in all sectors of

development.

The infrastructure and conditions in rural areas have been

ignored. The department has understood the need to upgrade

infrastructure and facilities that are conducive for the

movement and activities of people living with disabilities.

Rural development directly addresses unemployment, poverty and

inequality. This can only be understood and implemented by the

ANC and its government, or if you like the ANC-led government

or if you like, the ANC government.

*IsiXhosa*:

Ndizithetha zonke ezi zinto ngabom Sihlalo kuba kukho abantu

abathi xa behleli phaya ekoneni kwisithebe Ngokungavakaliyo]

... bacinge ukuba nabo bangurhulumente.

*English*:

The department has planned and is implementing programmes that

are addressing rural poverty and underdevelopment. They are

doing this under pressure from those who have always been

beneficiaries of the poverty of our people.



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*IsiXhosa*:

Uzakuyifumana ke le nto Mphathiswa ohloniphekileyo kuba kaloku

uxova intelezi nje, impundulu ikujongile.

*English*:

Through intergovernmental relations, the department has

demonstrated ... to appreciate all the concomitant ... of

rural development, which includes electrification, water and

sanitation, roads and bridges.

As the ANC, we urge all reasoning people to join us and

support Vote 29, the budget of the Department of Agriculture,

Land Reform and Rural Development. It seeks to address the

needs of the poorest of the poor. It seeks to build the nation

that was envisaged in the Freedom Charter and in the

liberation struggle.

*IsiXhosa*:

Ndiyabona ke Mphathiswa ukuba kufuneka uyiqonde into yokuba

kubonakala ngokungathi wena nabaxhasi bakho niyayiva le ntetho

ingumyalezo isuka phaya eMpuma Koloni ithi: Ningahambi nidlala

nithunyiwe. Loo nto iza kusinceda ke, ukuze lo msebenzi

niwuthunyiweyo uphumelele. Enkosi Sihlalo.



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Mr N P MASIPA: House Chairperson, the Annual Performance

Planning is the one off opportunity a year provided to the

department by law to reflect and conduct a systematic review

process of the past year’s performances and provide plans and

budgets for the year ahead. The process also allows the

department to apply corrective measures where it may have

failed the people of South Africa.

Once the department has completed the assessment, it is

supposed to draw a list of key performance deliverables that

contain specific, measurable targets with timelines within

which it must deliver use in the allocated budget. Where there

are fiscal constraints, the department can leverage the

private sector for assistance.

However, the department continues to use the same generic

performance planning and budgeting approach which has

repeatedly failed it. This failed approach is affecting the

department’s ability to effectively implement programmes, such

as blended finance programme

The tabled budget of R17,3 billion failed to factor in new and

worrying institutional threats ranging from animal diseases,



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plant pests, or operational deficiencies and the knock-on

effects of the ANC’s Russians invasion of Ukraine.

The Department remains underfunded on biosecurity. The foot

and mouth disease outbreak in 2011 cost the agriculture

industry about R6 billion. This led to the country losing its

FMD free status, which was later regained in 2014. Tragically,

South Africa was to lose FMD free status again in 2019, with

an outbreak that cost the economy an estimated R10 billion.

While the industry was fighting to regain the country’s FMD

free status, 56 new outbreaks were recorded across the

country. The question then is: Why do we have annual plans

that are not responsive to the real challenges in the

agricultural sector?

The Eastern, Northern, and Western Cape provinces have

experienced the worst locust outbreaks in recent memory. The

department demonstrated a lack of planning capacity during

operation after some key members of the locust control team

were left unpaid, with insufficient pesticide supplies, poor

quality protective clothing and substandard spraying

equipment. Even worse, the OBP is failing our farmers. Farmers

complain constantly about the lack of vaccines at the OBP.



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From 1st June, when the vaccination of the horses starts,

there is still no indication whether the OBP will be able to

supply the African Horse Sickness vaccines.

The development of poor performance plans to produce poor

service delivery outcomes is nothing new with the ANC

government. Instead of building institutional capacity, the

ANC corruption has crippled state institutions and collapsed

others. While Ramaphosa’s administration claims to have

prioritised infrastructure development to improve transport

and food security. Evidence on the ground shows that this is

not the case.

The poor maintenance of the ports, the rail and road

infrastructure are exacerbating, food inflation and is

threatening food security. Although transport does not fall

under this department, the industry wants to see collaborative

responses from state organs aimed at addressing food security

and skyrocketing inflation. But we all know that the ANC

government care less about the vulnerable.

While I still have a floor Chair, let me address an important

diplomatic effort that was covered in the media recently. The



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visit to Ukraine by the incoming President hon John

Steenhuisen very much in the best interest of South Africa.

The Russian invasion in Ukraine is hitting South Africans hard

in the pockets with rising fuel and food prices. The longer

that this war carries on buying petrol at R40 a liter isn’t

too far off the horizon. Hon Steenhuisen has helped to focus

the national conversation on the economic dangers that we face

should this war drag on. As if our food security isn’t

threatened already by this senseless Russian invasion of

Ukraine.

Recent surveys by Dr Kandase Cloete, found that: One in five

farmers want to exit farming in the next decade. It is a sad

indictment that this department does see this as a looming

crisis

The DA government in the Western Cape has responded positively

to these emerging challenges. The provincial Department of

Agriculture has recently entered into an MOU with an

agriculture commodity group to fill the void of fiscal

constraints, development of emerging farmers and support of

extension services. Through the Department’s innovation, it

has introduced agro-processing on wheels to assist emerging



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farmers who want to process their products before selling them

to the market. This is what a capable state must do to respond

to challenges in the agricultural sector.

In conclusion, the master plan that was signed off today was

never presented to Parliament, except to the members of the

ANC study group. While the DA supports the state’s

collaboration with social partners and private sector

leveraging to transform and grow the economy, we don’t support

the haphazard ceremonial plans that mean nothing to our

farmers. A dangerous precedent is being set on reducing the

portfolio committee members of this house to a rubber stamp

role of the ANC cadres study group. Programmes such as

AgriParks, Farmers Production Support Unit (FPSU), AgriBEE and

Blended Finance failed to produce the desired results because

the annual budget plan and policies were never aligned nor

supported by these plans. I thank you, Chair.

Ms M M E TLHAPE: Hon Chairperson, I request to switch off the

video. I am on load shedding here. The Department of

Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development oversees the

operation of a number of public entities. It is therefore

important to acknowledge the importance of this entity as part



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of the ecosystem that supports the industry. What is critical

is the strengthening and adequate resourcing of these entities

in order to ensure that the work of the department is

adequately supported. These entities are not on their own.

They form an integral part of the agricultural sector

ecosystem, and I will speak to some of them.

Now, hon Steyn, let me indicate to you that irrespective of

what you say, our people know their history. Have you ever

wondered why land has to be transferred back to its rightful

owners? Why is it where it is? Now, let me tell you what is

political will. Political will is the 700 000 hectares of

state land that President released for redistribution.

Political will is the completion of Phase 3 residential units

of District Six, and the start of Phase 4 and 5 to be

completed in 2024-25, in order to restore the dignity for

victims of apartheid forced removals.

Hon Mathias, don’t think that South Africans have forgotten

that you refused, with your party, to support the

expropriation of land without compensation, and I wonder why?

Probably so that you can come here and play big, and pretend

that you care. For your information hon member, expropriation



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of land without compensation is just but one mechanisms of

land redistribution. We are not stuck as the ANC. We will

continue with other programmes to give our people land.

Now, under the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights, by

September 2021, a total of 82 295 claims were settled.

Benefitting 2,2 million beneficiaries, comprising of 444 57

households. The extend of the land acquired and restored to

land claimants was 3,8 million hectares. The total number of

land claims outstanding in January 2022 was 6 907. We can

boldly say that the commission has settled 92% of claims lost

by 1998. For this financial year, by the way, as the

committee, we are encouraging the commission to push for

completion of research of all older claims whilst continuing

with the targets for settlement and finalisation land claims.

Whilst there is a push to ensure that land claims are settled

and finalised, the truth is that the commission does not have

enough resources to do that. The current allocation of

R3,7 billion hon Minister, is inadequate to allow for

settlement of all outstanding claims within the shortest time

possible.



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Deputy Minister Skwatsha, we welcome the progress made by the

commission to ensure that it moves towards being an autonomous

entity in line with Public Finance Management Act, PFMA

because we believe that will be to improve the organisational

efficiency and effectiveness. On the Office of the Valuer

General, its work was a new terrain, but considerable progress

has been made to entrench its services. One of the critical

areas which the committee welcomes was the review of the

Property Evaluation Act by the Ministerial Advisory Panel on

land reform. The work has been completed, and the Minister is

considering the report.

We envisage that recommendations of this report will assist

the department in implementing the just and equitable

compensation when acquiring land for land reform and further

clarify the mandate of the Office of the Valuer General, OVG.

We welcome the commitment to ensure that critical and

strategic positions are filled. It is doable. Whatever they

have planned on their Annual Performance Plan, APP because

already in 2019-20 its performance rating was 93%. In 2020-21,

it improved to 100%. There is also a renewed focus to ensure

that a number of days to issue evaluation certificate do not



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exceed 50, and to take less than 10 days to resolve queries

after issuing a final evaluation certificate.

Hon members, on the Ingonyama Trust Board, the biggest issue

here hon Cebekhulu, is that the committee has agreed to

address through oversight visits and engagements with the

trust board and trustees, as well as relevant stakeholders, is

the purpose for which the trust was established. And whether

communities were realising the material benefits from the

administration or management of their land. In terms of the

challenge of Ingonyama Trust Board that me and you know from

the committee, it is in respect of accountability and the

budget deficit.

Deputy Minister Skhatshwa has just indicated a plan for

hosting a Communal Land Tenure Summit, which will involve

diverse stakeholders. It will therefore be important that as

and when the department deliberates upon the matter of

customary land tenure, consideration be made on lessons

learned from our experience, whether negative or positive on

governance and the land administration of rural land as we

have seen with the Ingonyama Trust Board, because what we are



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seeing could actually be multiplied if not exacerbated when we

transfer the land to traditional communities.

Now our engagement hon Cebekhulu therefore, is stressing

accountability because as legislators, we want to protect the

right of individuals and communities as according to Section

25C on protecting the tenure security for all citizens. So

it’s not like we are being mean to Ingonyama Trust Board, but

our responsibility is the protection of citizens. But also,

it’s about enforcing accountability because of the public good

in terms of resources allocated to the bond. Now, hon Breedt,

...

*Setswana*:

... bothata ga ese ANC. Bothata ke gore lona makokokganetso

le gana go amogela gore puso le lefapha di a dira ka matlole a

mannye a ba fiwang. Mananeo a tshwana le namolo ya COVID-19,

letlole la Moporesidente la go tlhatlhosa ikonomi, ...

*English*:

... your Presidential Stimulus Initiative, ...

*Setswana:*



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Tlhabololo ya didika kgotsa, ...

*English*:

... District Development Model.

*Setswana*:

Ke tsone tse dingwe tse di bontshang gore ANC e semagane le go

fetola maphelo a batho.

*English*:

Coming to the Agricultural Research Council, our visit in

Tshwane, members were exposed to some of the laboratory

equipment in the bio-technology platform that is used in

diagnostic analytical services for stock theft, micro genetic

traceability, rapid ... [Inaudible.] ... test, paternity

tests, and so on. The Agricultural Research Council Agro-

Processing and Medicinal Plants Unit which is already

contributing to the upliftment of small moringa growers in

Limpopo, will play a crucial role in developing research

towards the implementation of agricultural industry master

plans.



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Other innovations include the plant and animal mobile clinics

and a mobile hour tour that enable the Agricultural Research

Council, ARC to reach remote areas on research livestock,

plant and bio systematic as well as soil testing to address

industry challenges. The effort of the current board which

seems to have an intrinsic understanding of the ARC mandate

and challenges, are acknowledged and appreciated. The task

team that ... [Inaudible.] ... has established to address food

and mouth disease challenges is noted. And the committee

should seek a report on its activities. The committee

previously lamented instability in the executive management

following the departure of the former CEO, and the new CEO has

just been appointed since the 1 April 2022.

Hon Swart, we really appreciate the assistance by farmers to

those in need during disaster. Theirs is a noble profession

and that is what we call private public partnerships, and we

really appreciate. Moving forward, we will continue to work

with them as they continue to help those that are in

destitute. Hon members, are visit to Onderstepoort Biological

Products, highlighted both positives and negative challenges

that the institution is facing. What has been apparent from

engagements on the entity’s APP and the oversight visit, is



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that the challenges of Onderstepoort Biological Products, OBP

are complex, and did not start in 2019, hon Masipa. Or even

five years ago, but have been going on for some time.

We equally support the work that the board is doing in

repositioning the institution. However, we know that there is

still more work to be done in ensuring that there is adequacy

in the availability of vaccines as well as the need for

completion of the Good Manufacturing Practice, GMP project as

all of these are important in the support of our animal health

system. House Chairperson, the ANC supports Vote 29 of the

Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

I thank you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL

DEVELOPMENT: Thank you very much House Chairperson ...

*IsiXhosa*:

... mandibulele ngentetho yabo bonke abathe bayinxalenye lale

ngxoko-mpikiswano, ngamandla amalungu eNdlu ngezincomo

abazithethileyo. Kodwa ke, kumele ndibulele oogxa bam amalungu

e-ANC, athe agxininisa ezintweni esizenzileyo nakwezo zinto

simele ukuba sizenze ukuya phambili. Tata uCapa



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ndiyakuthembisa namalungu onke ukuba asiz’ukudlala endleleni,

sizakuya apho sithunywe khona.

*Siswati*:

Ngiyacela ke kusho kutsi bakhona nine Bekunene nalabo

labakhuluma emaphunge kungatsi sebakhohliwe kutsi sivelaphi.

Uma nje sikhuluma ngekwakhiwa kabusha kwalelive kumele

sikhumbule incindzetelo lesibuya kuyo. Kulesinye sengatsi

siyakhohlwa, mhlawumbe kufuneka sikhumbutane, kutsi kahle

kahle vele uma sikhuluma ngalencindzetelo, isukaphi. Maye

nkosi yami 1652 kute kube ngumanje, mudze kakhulu nome ungatsi

1652 kufika ku 1994 angati kutsi singatsi sikhatsi lesidze

kangakanani kunaleminyaka lengu 28 yekutama kuhlengahlengisa

kabusha sakhe sive.

Kumele ke nine Bekunene futsi ngisho kutsi labohulumende

basembili bebabukene kuphela netimfuno talabayingcosana. Tsine

nje labamphisholo sasingatiwa nekutsi sibobani. Sikhohliswa

nje kancane, kutsiwe naku kwentiwa ema Agricultural

Cooperation lokungemphela kungesiko kwekutsi kulekelelwa

kwebalimi njengoba setama kwenta kulesikhatsi sanamuhla.

Kumele ke sikhulume emaciniso siwabheke. Ngiyabonga nkosi yami

kutsi make Steyn ingatsi nawe kube khona kuvuleka kwemehlo



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wakuvuma ngalomlomo wakho kwekutsi kahle kahle vele

besicindzetelwe lapha sivela khona. Keje ke ngitakushiya

kuloko.

*English*:

It would important for me, to actually appreciate the role

that have been played by members of the District Six. All the

various stakeholders, who have engaged with us as government

in the development of their land as they have returned.

On 06 May 22, many more beneficiaries returned to where they

were forcefully removed. After the City of Cape Town finally

issued the occupancy certificate. I want to actually

appreciate the role played by the portfolio committee in this

regard, the Interministerial Committee on Land, headed by

Deputy President. But, also the Department of Public Works for

having won the journey, ensuring that, that land is secured

for the claimants.

The City of Cape Town led by our mayor who was part of the

Members of this Parliament, who also have been opened to

engaging with us to resolve the issue of occupancy

certificate. It’s nice to be part of a democratic state,



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because even if we differ, we appreciate the contributions

that others are making. Because, the challenges of resolving

South Africa’s problems lie on all of us.

Hon Matiase, in your intervention you actually reflected on a

number of issues, where in your view, you felt that nothing

has been done. Some other members have also raised the issue

from the opposition of the lack of political will. That cannot

be far from the truth. The very fact that the ANC as a

movement was central in the negotiation of the Constitution of

the country and its democratic dispensation, particularly to

emphasize that the issue of land reform and bringing back the

dignity of our people is central in the trajectory for

transformation. That defines the political will.

What we have been doing over the years, returning land to our

people. At the same time engaging those who took the land from

our people, maybe not themselves directly but the system that

was in place ensured the disposition of the majority of the

South Africans.

We acknowledged their pain and therefore we undertook to

compensate. To ensure that there’s no disruption and further



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conflict in our country. Which democratic state can ever do

that if not the ANC-led government?

Hon Cebekhulu, you’ve also indicated the importance of fast

tracking land reform, yes we agree, but I think when we talk

about fast tracking of land reform, we shouldn’t be once

sided. We should equally make the same call to the land owners

of this country. Because, more time gets spent in the

negotiations on price. Some of the land owners even dispute

the fact that there was any land disposition.

Hon Steyn, hon Breedt, I actually want to take you to Melmoth.

Understand how long it took us, to resolve that claim, not

because there was political will, but because persistent, you

know refusal from land owners. There were few who actually

acknowledged that we needed to go and ensured that there’s

settlement and that’s why we celebrated last Saturday with

four communities of Melmoth in this regard. But, it’s a

journey that has been very long. And, I think when we talk

about these issues we need to appreciate that fact.

Hon Mandela, hon Tshwete, hon Capa and hon Manketsi you

actually raised the importance of supporting agriculture



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particularly those who have been given land and I agree with

you. Because, it is important that as we bring in new owners

into the land that they were removed from, they are equally

supported in order to make sure that they become successful.

And it is important to appreciate that [Interjection.] ...

that they support. I therefore wish to thank all members for

their participation in this debate. And to our farmers, and

... [Inaudible.] ...enterprises and claimants at home for the

good work that they have done. Thank you very much. [Time

expired.]

The mini plenary rose at 18:43.

