**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2616 / NW 2921E**

**MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES:**

**Mr M G P Lekota (Cope)) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**

**QUESTION:**

With reference to the launch of Operation Phakisa on Agriculture by the President in February 2017, what:

(a) funding has been set aside for the initiative and

(b) progress has been made to date in giving effect to the initiative? **NW2921E**

**REPLY:**

**(a) has funding been set aside for the initiative?**

The Revitalisation of the Agriculture and Agro-Processing Value Chain (RAAVC), as a pillar of the 9 Point Plan was subjected to the Operation Phakisa methodology. The purpose was to deepen the implementation planning and management of RAAVC. Operation Phakisa initiatives are therefore not necessary new, but by and large the up-scaling and fast tracking of existing programmes and projects where applicable. However, there are a few initiatives which are new or calling for the overhauling of existing programmes.

Furthermore, Operation Phakisa is a method through which the private sector, civil society and government are enjoined through the development of 3-feet deep plans of initiatives agreed upon at the five-week Lab. Funding and implementation of the Phakisa initiatives are thus a joint venture between the private, civil and public sector.

Public funds committed to Phakisa are the existing funds within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries as well as the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, used in a manner to leverage greater private sector buy-in, and investment.

**(b) what progress has been made to date in giving effect to the initiative?**

The Operation Phakisa Lab outcomes must firstly be wholly owned by all stakeholders and role players within Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The DAFF and DRDLR have invested a lot of time in communicating and syndicating with industry and civil role players through workshops, closed and open meetings. These engagements are also intended to lead to the finalisation of agreements for implementation among key role players, which will be pronounced on through a public event, namely the Open Day. We are 65% though this phase of Operation Phakisa.

The date for the Open Day will be determined by the Office of the President.

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