# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY

**QUESTION NUMBER: PQ 2679 NW3126E DATE OF PUBLICATION: 3 DECEMBER 2021**

**2679. Ms N Tafeni (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

What (a) is the (i) current state of housing in farming areas and (ii) total number of houses that have been built in the farming areas in the past three financial years and (b) challenges has her department experienced in this regard? NW3126E

# Reply:

(a.i) Farm dwellers still face extreme tenure insecurity and lack access to adequate housing and basic services. This is fuelled by matters related to management of labour relations on farms, migration out of farms due to various factors including evictions, as well as the rise of temporary and insecure work. According to the Community Household Survey (2016) the number of households engaged in agriculture was 2,3 million in 2016 compared with 2,9 million in 2011. More recent figures will in all probability confirm the trend

(a.ii) A total of 89 sites and 114 housing units were built in the farming areas, as per allocations and information provided by the Provinces of the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Mpumulanga and North West.

1. The specific housing related challenges include, amongst others:
   1. The provision of basic services and adequate housing on farms, based on the fact that the farms are private properties;
   2. The persistent tensions that exist between commercial farmers, farm-workers, and the enforcement of constitutional and and land rights legislation;
   3. There are serious land tenure matters that hamper and complicate service delivery with respect to farm- workers,
   4. A number of rural municipalities confront the lack of technical capacity and expertise challenges, and as a

result may not be able to adequately cope with planning and the delivery of services.

However, to ensure the specific needs and nature to provide housing and human settlements in farming areas is dealt with through the programme namely “Farm Resident Subsidies in Part 3, Volume 5 of the National Housing Code, 2009”. Its purpose is to provide a flexible mechanism that promotes adequate housing, including basic services and secure tenure to farm workers and residents in a variety of farming situations across the country. It is implemented through Provincial Development Plans and Municipal Integrated Development Plans (IDPs).

# Additional Information For Consideration Of The Director-General and Minister In The Finalisation Of the Reply

There are other supplementary programmes such as the National Housing Programme: Rural Housing – Informal Land Rights, implemented by the Department to support programmes of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), especially where farmers reside on land in communal tenure. The National Housing Programme for Farm Residence is also aligned with Land Reform: Labour Tenant Programme that promotes a holistic solution to address the housing and development needs of labour tenants targeted by the Land Reform Programme.

It is to be further noted that the Department is participating in consultation sessions with DALRRD in the development of a Farm Dweller Programme that seeks to, among others, protect the rights of farm dwellers, provide for tenure security, etc. The draft programme will further seek to consolidate all the various interventions by a number of Departments in this sector, and most importantly, to respond critical legislative instruments that have been passed, including court judgments.

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| **Farmworker Housing Assistance** | | | | | | | | |
| **Financial Year** | **Province** | **Sites** | **Expenditure Sites** | **Units** | **Expenditure Units** | **Profession al Fees** | **Actual Bulk** | **Total Expenditure** |
| **2018** | Gauteng | 100 | 2 104 168 | 0 | 0 | 875 093 | 0 | 2 979 261 |
| Mpumalanga | 0 | 0 | 85 | 7 019 974 | 535 205 | 0 | 7 555 179 |
| **Total** |  | **100** | **2 104 168** | **85** | **7 019 974** | **1 410 298** | **0** | **10 534 440** |
| **2019** | Mpumalanga | 0 | 0 | 0 | 389 389 | 0 | 0 | 389 389 |
| **Total** |  | **0** | **0** | **0** | **389 389** | **0** | **0** | **389 389** |
| **2020** | North West | 0 | 0 | 25 | 5 212 291 | 0 | 0 | 5 212 291 |
| Eastern Cape | 89 | 8 925 | 89 | 14 617 200 | 408 000 | 0 | 15 034 125 |
| **Total** |  | **89** | **8 925** | **114** | **19 829 491** | **408 000** | **0** | **20 246 416** |
| **Source: HSS** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |