**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2818**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER [No 49-2020SIXTH PARLIAMENT]
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**2818. Mr N P Masipa (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:**

1. Whether, with reference to her reply to question 1785 on 29 September 2020, she provided the farmers who are affected by drought in (a) Northern Cape, (b) Eastern Cape and (c) Western Cape with any funding to alleviate the effects of the drought; if not, why not; if so, what are the details of the drought adaptation and mitigation strategies and programmes her department rolled out in the specified provinces;

(2) whether she will furnish Mr N P Masipa with the relevant details of the drought adaptation and mitigation strategies and programmes that farmers received from her department in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? **NW3642E**

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

1. Yes, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has facilitated the allocation of drought relief funding through the National Disaster Management Centre and an amount of R138 489 000 was approved under provincial disaster grant allocation. These funds were made available following the declaration of the drought as a national state of disaster in February 2020.

Seven provinces benefitted from this allocation, including Northern Cape (received R35.689 million), Western Cape (received R25 090 million) and Eastern Cape (received R35 million). The implementation of the interventions is still in progress as the funds were transferred in July 2020.The Department further disseminates the National Agrometeorological Committee Advisories which have seasonal forecasts and suggested measures to mitigate and adapt to impacts of drought amongst other hazards. Some measures recommended in the advisories include keeping livestock in balance with the available grazing, selection of drought tolerant cultivars and provision of additional feed to livestock.

The table below depicts the detail of the provincial allocations (Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape):

**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **District**  | **Funding allocated**  | **Purpose**  |
| Central Karoo | R11 000 000 | Fodder  |
| Cape Winelands | R420 000 | Fodder  |
| West Coast | R8 620 000 | Fodder  |
| Garden Route  | R4 840 000 | Fodder  |
| Overberg | R210 000  | Fodder  |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** | **R25 090 000** |  |

**EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Municipality/Region**  | **Boreholes** | **Fodder Production (Lucerne)** | **TOTAL BUDGET**  |
|  | **Number**  |  **Budget** | **Area (ha)** | **Budget** |
| Alfred Nzo  | 08  | R4 032 000 | - | - | R4 032 000 |
| Amathole | 08  | R4 032 000 | 417  | R5 000 000 | R9 032 000 |
| Chris Hani  | 08  | R4 032 000 | 250  | R3 000 000 | R7 032 000 |
| Joe Gqabi | 08  | R4 032 000 | - | - | R4 032 000 |
| OR Tambo  | 11  | R6 048 000 | - | - | R6 048 000 |
| Sarah Baartman | 06  | R2 824 000 | 167  | R2 000 000 | R4 824 000 |
| **Total**  | **49** |  | **834**  |  |  |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** |  | **R25 000 000** |  | **R10 000 000** | **R35 000 000** |

**NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **District**  | **Funding allocated**  | **Purpose**  |
| Namakwa  | R5 500 000 | Fodder supply  |
| Pixley ka Seme | R4 500 000 | Fodder supply  |
| ZF Mgcau | R3 800 000 | Fodder supply |
| Frances Baard | R3 000 000 | Fodder supply |
| John TaoloGaetsewe | R2 500 000 | Fodder supply  |
| **All districts** | R2 000 000 | Transportation of fodder |
|  | R3 500 000 | Fodder bank: extending irrigation, input costs on fodder production and maintenance  |
| Namakwa, Pixley ka Seme, John TaoloGaetsewe | R10 889 000 | Clearing of prosopis |
| **TOTAL BUDGET** | **R35 689 000** |  |

1. Yes**,** the monthly advisories issued to the farmers contain adaptation and mitigation strategies and details of provision of fodder have been categorised by Districts in all three provinces as per the tables above.Northern Cape Province prioritised the eradication of Prosopis trees to reduce underground water loses.

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is working with the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to develop additional adaptation and mitigation strategies in Northern Cape, Western Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces.DALRRD held meetings with the National Disaster Management Centre to discuss the continuous drought conditions in the three provinces and proposed programmes to adapt and mitigate the impacts of drought. DALRRD further held meetings with the three provinces to discuss continuous drought conditions in these areas with the aim of coming up with an integrated programme to adapt and mitigate the impacts of drought in the country especially in those three provinces. DALRRD is in the process of engaging the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs on the proposed interventions to expedite the implementation.

The Department also developed the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation sector Plan and the Climate Smart Agriculture Strategic Framework which spell out specific interventions and programs to be considered for implementation, sector response measures, long-term adaptation scenarios, drought adaptation and mitigation strategies as well as programmes. DALRRD is implementing these sector plans through programmes, appropriate strategies and approaches such as Climate Smart Agriculture in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the drought-stricken areas including the Karoo regions of the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape Provinces.