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| **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  **WRITTEN REPLY**  **QUESTION 3006 / NW3545E**    **MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES:**  **Honourable W. M. Madisha to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:**  **QUESTION** |

Whether he has taken any action to assist small-scale farmers at Grabouw, Western Cape, in particular, and other farmers in a similar predicament in general, who have no land for their cattle to graze on, resulting in their cattle straying where they are impounded and/or roaming near major national roads where they are knocked down by motorists causing farmers serious loss and seriously endangering the lives of motorists; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**REPLY**

The Theewaterskloof Local Municipality (THWK LM), the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) from the Office of the Honourable Deputy Minister Skwatsha, the Office of the Premier of the Western Cape, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture (WCDOA), and other role players held a meeting on the 27th July 2015 particularly to discuss the problem of the cattle (120 cows) crossing the roads, especially crossing on the National Road (N2) which has put motorists and other people’s lives at risk. There is an urgent need for land that will be used to graze the cattle. The requirement for land has been communicated with the DRDLR office. The THWK LM reported that there are 2 farms available in the area, but these could not be committed as available/secure for use by the cattle. This will be looked into as a short term solution whilst following the DRDLR processes to acquire land.

There is a 17 hectare piece of land available as part of the ARC land, though this is equally not available for use by the producers immediately as it is meant to support the ARC’s research interventions. The WCDOA advised the producers to reduce the number of cattle in order to contain the cows in a better condition, in terms of supervision and easy handling, including the provision of feed on a continuous basis. The reduction in cattle numbers was proposed by the WCDOA as a short term solution whilst the THWK LM resolves the availability of the two farms for immediate use. The cattle producers did not agree to this and refused to negotiate any further.

The land acquisition matter is being discussed as a matter of urgency to address the challenge of the cattle crossing the N2.