



rural development & land reform

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Rural Development & Land Reform
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Ms A N D Qikani
Chairperson: Select Committee on Land and Environmental Affairs
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Dear Ms Qikani

SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON LAND AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) hereby apologises for the late submission of the information requested by the Committee and will strive to ensure that such delays are not repeated in future. Herewith please find the response of the Department:

1. COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

- (a) *Does DRDLR fund all CRDP projects by itself or is it assisted by other Departments/institutions?*

No, the Department does not fund all the projects itself but is assisted by other departments from all spheres of government as well as institutions such as the National Development Agency, Development Bank of South Africa, etc. The CRDP promotes collaboration between sector departments and across spheres of government. The purpose of DRDLR is to initiate, facilitate, coordinate and catalyse the implementation of CRDP so as to lead to sustainable and vibrant rural communities. For instance, the Action Plan for Mhlontlo in the Eastern Cape is jointly funded by DRDLR and the Provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform. In the Western Cape the Action Plan for Dysselsdorp CRDP is also funded jointly with the Provincial Department of Agriculture.

- (b) *Why are there no projects in Gauteng?*

Originally Gauteng was not included in the piloting process but in the current financial year, four sites were identified and the CRDP is currently being rolled out. On Friday 25 March 2011, DRDLR launched the first Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) site in Gauteng at Impumelelo in Devon, in the Leseding Municipality. The key focus of the Gauteng Comprehensive Rural Strategy is

sustainable economic development through agrarian reform and infrastructural development. Other sites are Hekpoort, Bantu-Bonke, Mamello, Kudung, Kwa-Sokhulumi, Emfuleni, Westonaria (four sites) and Merafong. Councils of Stakeholders have been established for Devon, Hekpoort and Sokhulumi. 14 cooperatives have also been identified for registration. Social mobilisation has been done using unemployed youth in the participatory rural appraisal. Status quo reports have been completed on all the sites identified and household profiling is underway. In addition, village viewing areas were established in two sites for the viewing of events such as the State of the Nation Address and other quick win projects are currently being planned.

(c) *When will the household food garden projects be rolled out to the rest of the country?*

For the 2011-2012 financial year, 1 800 household food gardens will be rolled out. These household food gardens will be rolled out in the first and second quarters. In addition, the Agricultural Research Council will train 90 youth from each CRDP site on amongst other things, vegetable production and will mentor them for a further six months.

(d) *What impact has the Department had on the lives of people where the CRDP projects were piloted?*

In sites where the CRDP has been rolled out, peoples' access to social infrastructure including houses, water, electricity, food gardens, sanitation, ICT and education amongst others has improved. In some of the areas, food and community gardens are contributing to improved food security. In many of the areas short and medium term jobs have been created including skills development initiatives. Democratisation of rural institutions has resulted from the creation of Councils of Stakeholders which includes representatives from municipalities, Traditional Authorities and Community Based Organizations, thus leading to participatory development. Communities are beginning to take charge of their destiny and already in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal the community confirmed their needs and added a Multi-Purpose Centre as an urgent need. Similarly in Mhlontlo in the Eastern Cape the community rejected the Participatory Rural Appraisal need and a school in Newsted has already been built. There is also periodic monitoring and evaluation of projects with other departments, both national and provincial.

(e) *Does the Department collaborate with provincial and local government when rolling out the projects?*

Yes. The CRDP has a management system attached to it that institutionalises the working together of different spheres of government and the DRDLR, on entering any province or municipality must therefore collaborate with these spheres of government. In the Western Cape for instance, at the Dysselsdorp CRDP site, DRDLR is collaborating with the Department of Social Development, the Provincial Department of Agriculture and Stats SA.

2. NARYSEC:

(a) *What were the payment challenges within the NARYSEC programme?*

Details of challenges experienced and how they were resolved are as follows:

- (i) Recruits had to be in possession of their own personal bank accounts. Many youth did not have their own accounts and used mainly those of their family or friends. Mobile banks were deployed to remote areas to assist youth to open accounts.
- (ii) Most banks have a policy that if all funds are withdrawn the account is closed. This leads to youth not having an open account on the day that they are paid. The process of opening a bank account then needs to be initiated again. A communication process was embarked upon to inform the youth of this policy so that they can leave the required minimum balance in the bank.
- (iii) In terms of FICA a person is required to have an identity document and proof of residence before a bank account can be opened. This resulted in those youth without an identity document first having to apply for such document before they could be paid. Local municipalities were requested to issue proof of residence.
- (iv) In the longer term relationships are being established with the various banks to ensure that a smoother process is established.

(b) *What are the Department's plans for NARYSEC recruits once they are fully trained?*

The development growth path of NARYSEC is presented in **Annexure A** hereto. The objectives of NARYSEC are skills development and employment creation. The training will take place in accordance with the various phases indicated in Annexure A. The critical skills areas identified are as follows:

- construction;
- provision of emergency services;
- agriculture; and
- various trades/ artisan training.

These skills areas are prioritised as these are the skills required to deliver services in terms of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme. Further skills areas will be identified through household profiling analysis. The exit strategy of NARYSEC is to retain these skills in rural areas through enterprise development and linking these to various local municipalities.

(c) *Why is there no NARYSEC project in KZN and why did training only take place in the Western Cape?*

The rolling out of NARYSEC in KZN is currently being discussed with the Province. As soon as agreement is reached with the province NARYSEC will be implemented in KZN. The training initiatives will be taking place in other provinces shortly.

3. CHIEF SURVEYOR-GENERAL:

(a) *Has the Department completed the land survey?*

Please refer to **Annexure B** for a progress report on the land audit.

4. CFO:

(a) *Slide 6 indicates that expenditure under the Land Reform programme was put on hold to cater for restitution court orders and that this resulted in underspending by the Land Reform Branch: will any funds be rolled over to the next financial year, considering the underspending under Land Reform?*

Yes. R495.7 million was approved by National Treasury for rollover into the 2010-2011 financial year.

(b) *On Restitution's and Land Reform's spending per province (CFO's presentation); what are the consequences of the over- and underspending depicted?*

Section 43 of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 allows for the shifting of funds from underspending programmes to overspending programmes.

5. Restitution:

(a) *Accurate information on outstanding land claims*

The Commission is presently recounting and verifying information concerning claims that have been finalised, and those that remain outstanding. When the review process is finalised, the Minister shall be informed of the outcome, and thereafter the Select Committee shall be informed.

Kind regards



MDUDUZI SHABANE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 07/04/2011

Annexure A

