

**2015/2016 POLICY AND BUDGET VOTE BY MEC FOR
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LAND AND
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, HON. MA GAMEDE**

Honourable Speaker

Deputy Speaker and Chief Whip of the Majority Party;

Honourable Premier, Mr DD Mabuza;

Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

Honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature;

**Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Hon. VV
Windvoel;**

The Chairperson of House of Traditional Leaders and Amakhosi;

Executive Mayors: District and Local Municipalities;

The Director General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize;

**The HOD for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development,
Land and Environmental Affairs, Ms Sindisiwe Xulu; and**

Other Head of Departments

**African National Congress Secretary, Mr Lucky Ndinisa and the rest
of the Leadership;**

Representatives from Organised Agriculture;

Representatives from the Business Community;

Representatives of Labour Federations;

Distinguished Guests and Members of the Public;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen..

Honourable Speaker,

It is a privilege for me to stand before this august house today, to reflect on the work of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs as directed by the ANC led Government.

The year 2015 is the 21st year since the African National Congress took over government in this country.

After only two decades of the ANC-led government, South Africans have many reasons to say, undoubtedly so, that this country is a much better and different place to live in compared to what it used to be before the 1st democratic elections in 1994. More and more South Africans, especially the previously disadvantaged, now have basic necessities like education, electricity, water, housing, land, and healthcare facilities. More still needs to be done; and we all can and must contribute towards moving the country forward.

Honourable Speaker,

A lot has been done but we can still to do more to improve the lives of the majority of our people, most of whom had made immense sacrifices for our country towards realization of democracy.

There is an acknowledgement from all South Africans about the impact imposed by poverty, inequality and unemployment including landlessness in the country as a result of the 1913 Land Act.

The President of the Republic Honourable Jacob Zuma puts it, and I quote: *"We are very proud of our Constitution because it flows directly from the Freedom Charter and the fundamental beliefs of the ruling party"*. Close quote.

Honourable Speaker and Members,

The Freedom Charter, as adopted by the Congress of the People in Kliptown on 26 June 1955 states that – and I quote:

“The land shall be shared among those who work it;

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and all the land re-divided amongst those who work it to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seeds, tractors and dams to save soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;

People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished”. End quote.

Honourable Speaker and Members,

There is an acknowledgement from all the States in Africa that, agriculture must be revitalized and it must become the backbone of the African State economy. The 2003 Maputo Declaration becomes relevant that ten percent of African States budget must go to agriculture.

There is no doubt that to feed its population by year 2030, Africa will have to increase its capacity on agriculture and farming. In the 1970s for example, Africa was self-sufficient in food production.

However, the continent has become the net importer of food and according to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) a branch of the United Nation, this trend became worse in the past decade or so.

Siwumnyango weZolimo, Ukuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya, Ezemihlaba kanye neZemvelo sithi:

Kubhunya Lutfuli, Kusephuka Tidzindzi, Siyalima eMpumalanga!

The Department will be increasing its capacity to improve food security to alleviate poverty, inequality and unemployment in the province.

Mpumalanga Province has area land of about **6 530 390 square kilometres**,

1 088 209 square kilometres for Commercial Dry Land;

110 734 square kilometres for Commercial Irrigation;

99 710 square kilometres for Subsistence Agriculture and out of this

Only about **20% of** land has the potential for crop production.

Mpumalanga Fortune-40 Young Farmers Incubator

During the State of the Province Address by the Premier in February, he said, and I quote *“We will establish a Mpumalanga Fortune-40 Young Farmers incubator, a programme that will have 20 youth-owned SMMEs and 20 youth-owned cooperatives recruited into an incubator programme operated in four farms throughout the province.*

He continued to say to that, and I quote, “The incubation programme will operated under a strategic partnership with the private sector to mentor future commercial farmers. The incubator will train our youth in farming high value crops mainly in the export market”, end quote.

Honourable Speaker,

20 farms have been secured to respond to the announcement by the Premier.

We will be developing the youth to focus on dry land crop production, livestock production, poultry development. This will also include,

vegetables and sub-tropical fruit production linked to Value Chain, including School Nutrition Programme and Hospitals.

R80 million will account for the **Fortune-40 Young Farmers Incubator**. The projects will be distributed as follows:

3 farms at Ehlanzeni North will benefit, focusing on Bushbuckridge South Municipality,

3 farms at Ehlanzeni South will benefit, focusing will be on Mbombela and UMjindi Municipality.

6 farms at Gert Sibande District will benefit, focusing on Chief Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo , Msukaligwa and Lekwa Municipalities.

7 farms at Nkangala District will benefit, focusing on Steve Tshwete, Emalaheni, Victor Khanye, Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Municipalities.

The youth of this country is our future... The Department is proud to be contributing in investing on youth development as a way of creating opportunities that will allow them to participate in economic growth of the Province and express their talent.

Land Rehabilitation

R4 million is set aside by the Department for land rehabilitation. This will be a joint venture with **BHP Billiton**, where the latter has also budgeted **R3 million**.

A summit with mining companies in the Province will be held in cooperation with the Department of Mineral Resources to develop a programme on Land Rehabilitation for the benefit of Agricultural Programmes. This is a legal requirement for them to rehabilitate the land.

700 hectares of land will be developed for grains and vegetable production and the main focus will be on youth development.

Masibuyele Emasimini

Madam Speaker,

In Mpumalanga Province, through our programme of Masibuyele Emasimini which was started in 2005/2006 financial year) and Masibuyele Esibayeni which started in 2011/2012 financial year, we are saying back to the basics.

We are going to review our food security programmes of Masibuyele Emasimini and Masibuyele Esibayeni respectively primarily to assess their impact since inception. The review will focus on the two programmes as they are the core business of the Department.

Furthermore, we are going to look at better ways of improving where there is a need, where there is a need for complete change, it will be effected.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government is of the view of developing individual farmers who will contribute to food security and be feeders to the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market.

Farmers will be linked with other famers in other countries in order to increase productivity and move from small scale farming to commercial farming, this is at the centre of the Fresh Produce Market.

In this financial year, 2015/16,

R102 million will account for massifying and improving the implementation of Masibuyele Emasimini Programme.

30 761 hectares of land will be ploughed and planted across the province, which will see:

9 595 hectares ploughed and planted for Gert Sibande

9 332 hectares ploughed and planted for Nkangala

6 072 hectares ploughed and planted for Ehlanzeni South **AND**

5 762 hectares ploughed and planted for Ehlanzeni North

These hectares are going to be split into two:

12 761 will be for Subsistence Farming and;

18 000 will be for Smallcale farmers who have been identified in all the Districts to be put in a three year programme to push them into commercial farming.

Honourable Speaker,

Regardless of the size, we call upon our people to use any piece of land for backyard gardens and contribute in the fight against hunger. Moreover our people should ensure that all arable land is used productively and, if possible, profitably.

Fertilizers and Manure (Production Inputs)

R33 million will cater for the supply, delivery and off-loading of fertilizers and manure covering Ehlanzeni South and North, Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts.

Food Security Programme

In the State of the Province the Premier said, and I quote" we have ensured the empowerment of local cooperative to access business opportunities. Today, cooperatives are now supplying the school nutrition programme with vegetables", end quote.

R22 million will be utilised for the development of 62 cooperatives, water development and food gardens.

The food security programme will focus on reviving cooperatives that are linked to the school nutrition programme and hospitals.

Areas of focus will be on vegetables production not limited to tomatoes, carrots and cabbages etc....

Additionally, **150 food Communal gardens** will be developed on the communal land.

Honourable Speaker,

Most emerging farmers still lack the capacity, the means and the necessary skills, including the basic production inputs and mechanization; they still cannot meet the basic needs of running a productive and profitable farm, hence such an intervention.

Tractors and Implements

R20 million will be set aside for supply and delivery of tractors in the Districts for the enhancement of our fleet that we have as a Department.

R27 million will account for the appointment of service providers to repair and maintain mechanisation as well as procurement of fuel, diesel and lubricants for all the sites where our tractors will be dispatched on a daily basis.

I must add that mechanization is now managed by the Department; I can confidently say this change in approach has seen more farmers benefitting from the Masibuyele Emasimini Programme

Masibuyele Esibayeni

R16 million will account for Masibuyele Esibayeni Programme to increase animal production.

18 cattle production sets/ nuclei will be supplied to livestock farmers under the Bull and Heifer project.

15 sets of Goats, **10** sets of Sheep and **8** sets of Pigs will be distributed to livestock farmers that are meeting the set criteria.

I am also happy to announce that Thembisile Hani Local Municipality livestock farmers which were affected by the cattle mortality caused by the harshest weather in September 2012, have finally been compensated by the Department.

R10 million was spent for the procurement of 1000 cattle that was distributed to the farmers as a way of compensation.

Agro-Processing

The Premier, said in his State of the Province Address, and I quote, *“As part of the Agricultural Policy action plan, the integrated poultry value chain must be developed to significantly contribute to the food security and job creation needs of our people whilst simultaneously negating the need of the Republic to import chicken meat”*, close quote.

R11 million will account for the construction and refurbishment of **eight (8) Poultry Houses** with a carrying capacity of **40 000** chickens at Gert Sibande, Nkangala and Ehlanzeni North and South respectively.

The Department has managed to forge strategic partnerships with Early Bird Chicken, AFGRI and Super Grand for the marketing of chickens.

However, the programme will now be linked to the School Nutrition Programme and Hospitals. The ultimate goal is to establish local markets that are linked to the local population.

The Department will also investigate the possibility of establishing a chicken hatching programme in the Province.

R500 thousand will be allocated for the planning of a **Red Meat Abattoir** at Ehlanzeni North. This initiative will benefit local livestock farmers upon completion.

One Stop Centres

R14 million will account for the construction and renovation of One Stop Centres in Bushbuckridge South, Mkhondo, and Nkomazi Municipalities.

The Department will now be easily accessible by society we serve, as all the services will be contained under one roof.

Furthermore, delays in the distribution of production inputs (seeds, fertilizers pesticides/ chemicals,) which were kept in offices, is now a thing of the past.

Irrigation System

R1 million is put aside for the supply and installation of irrigation system for small scale sugarcane farmers in Malelane under Nkomazi Municipality.

More investment from the Department was injected into this project which saw an amount of **R7.4 million** committed in the previous financial year.

Livestock Development

R9 million is set aside for the construction of livestock handling facilities and water development for projects mainly in Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts.

This will include but not limited to fencing of livestock camps, construction of animal drinking and feeding troughs and construction of animal handling facilities such as Scales and Clamps.

Skills Development

R10.7 million is put aside for the recruitment of 40 agricultural graduates to be linked to Land Reform farms and for mentorship initiatives on various commodities aimed at Land Reform projects.

Structured Agricultural Training

R5 million is allocated for the completion of infrastructure in Marapyane College, under Dr. JS Moroka Municipality; development of a Farmer Training Centre at our Nooitgedacht Agricultural Centre in Msukaligwa Municipality, and equipping of Funda Mlimi Training Centre in Thembisile Hani Municipality.

Madam Speaker,

With the merger of the Lowveld College of Agriculture to the University of Mpumalanga, we are redirecting our focus to the farmer training centers that I have just alluded to, including Mzinti Training Centre in Nkomazi, in ensuring that we sustain and elevate our farmer training programmes.

Following the outbound mission to Italy earlier this month, led by the Honourable Premier, DD Mabuza, agreements of cooperation were signed. I must say that the Province will be sending graduates amongst the students that we are supporting to do their Masters Degrees in Scientific Research in agriculture. This is indeed good news to us.

Veterinary Services

In the year **2015/16** for the wellbeing of our animals, of priority the Department will do the following:

- **821 858** animals will be vaccinated
- **4 920** official Movement Permits will be issued
- **3 950** Epidemiological Units will be visited
- **4 015 870** cattle to be dipped
- **175 000** animals will be sampled and tested

Honourable Speaker,

I must mention that the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) which sets and prescribes norms and standards on matters of animal health and international trade, announced in February this year that as a Province we have regained the Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) free zone status.

This was indeed good news for us however, a lot still needs to be done in ensuring that critical control measures are in place to prevent potential outbreak of FMD virus.

Technology and Research Development

R8.3 million will be invested on Research and Development.

Following an intense introspection, and benchmarking with other Provinces like Western Cape and KwaZulu Natal, we have realised that our investment in Research and Development is far below the level that would ensure the competitiveness in the agricultural sector.

Therefore, this financial year, more focus will be on rebuilding our research capacity, a bold move in ensuring that we reclaim our status as a leading Province in this field in the country.

Fresh Produce Market

In his state of the Province Address, the Premier said and I quote, *“The establishment of the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market is another major infrastructure initiative to support agricultural production and create a logistics platform for the export of our fresh produce to international markets”*, and I close quote.

Madam Speaker,

R51 million is put aside for the Mpumalanga International Fresh Produce Market, bulk infrastructure including roads and civil works and the construction of sewer system.

Working together with the implementing agent: Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (**MEGA**) on this initiative, we have since made certain that the implementation of the installation of bulk services gets underway.

In addition :

- Statutory requirements have been implemented;
- Environmental Impact Assessment application has been formalised;
- The water use licence has been granted;
- Traffic volume study has been concluded, including many other associated activities.

We will also ensure development of Municipal Agricultural hubs as a support base for the Fresh Produce Market, that are in Mkhondo, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge.

Madam Speaker,

Agricultural Economics

The Department continues supporting Agri-Businesses with agricultural economic services towards accessing markets and development of bankable business plans for farmers. This will result in rural job creation and opening of the cooperative bank for small scale farmers in the Province.

Rural Development

R5.1 million will account for coordination of rural development initiatives and strategies.

This will include the development of integrated plans, securing strategic partnerships etc.....

Land Reform

During the ANC's January 8 Statement of this year delivered by President Jacob Zuma in Cape Town, he said and I quote:

"Land has been at the heart of the historic injustice of dispossession and the stripping of the dignity of African people.

The ANC government has restored nearly 3.2 million hectares of land. Where people chose to receive financial compensation, government has paid out more than R18-billion between 1995 and 2014.

Altogether, nearly 1,8 million claimants have benefitted from this programme.

However, we are deeply concerned about the pace of land redistribution and will continue to balance the national interest of restoration, economic development and food security".

The President went on to say:

“We reassert the correctness of the Constitution, but admit that the “willing buyer, willing seller” policy went on for far too long, and had unsatisfactorily results.

Expropriation will be done in line with the Constitution and the Act to be passed this year. There is no greater public interest than returning the land to the people”. End Quote

Honourable Speaker,

The President of our Republic has spoken.

Furthermore our Constitution is very clear regarding this matter, as it states and I quote:

“Property may be expropriated only in terms of law of general application

*a) for a public purpose or in the public interest; and
b) subject to compensation, the amount of which and the time and manner of payment of which have either been agreed to by those affected or decided or approved by a court.*

The amount of the compensation and the time and manner of payment must be just and equitable, reflecting an equitable balance between the public interest and the interests of those affected”. End quote.

Madam Speaker,

Having laid that background, regarding Land Reform, which is one of the integral programmes in the strategy of the Department, we work in

conjunction with the Department of Rural Dev and Land Reform. The Province has therefore this year planned the following:

R360 million will be set aside for Land Restitution claims.

15 farms will benefit from Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts.

R10 million will account for Narysec to benefit **80 Youth** on skills development through FETs in this financial year.

625 youth benefitted through this programme last year. It is worth noting that this programme will run for a period of three years.

37 youth will be recruited in Gert Sibande and **43** from Ehlanzeni District this year.

I must mention Madam Speaker, that so far; **R4.4 billion** has been spent, resulting on a total of **47 505 .31** hectares of land being restored on Land Reform Programme in Mpumalanga since 1994.

Honourable Speaker,

R160 million is put aside for Land Acquisition across the province targeting **244 380 hectares** of land.

The Premier: in his state of the province address and I quote *“We will ensure that land reform farms are producing for market. In this regard, we will focus on strengthening farmers support programmes to ensure that emerging farmers are linked to local and export market”*, end quote.

Madam Speaker,

R111.3 million will be invested on **Recap and Development**.

12 farms are targeted for Ehlanzeni;

09 farms in Nkangala and;

14 farms for Gert Sibande.

R96 million is allocated for Rural Infrastructure Development targeting to benefit the **eight (8)** identified Comprehensive Rural Development Programme Municipalities.

R54.9 million will account for the Rural Economic Infrastructure Development (REID)

R96 million will be invested on the Animal Veld Management Programme (AVMP).

The Department will also be establishing Grazing camps as follows:

24 at Ehlanzeni;

05 at Nkangala and;

07 at Gert Sibande.

Honourable Speaker,

R60.6 million will be put aside to reconstitute Communal Property Associations (**CPAs**).

Some farms out of the **285 CPAs** that are in the province will be re-constituted.

As the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform continues working on Land Claims, we, the Department of (**DARDLEA**) continues dealing with those previously restored farms.

However, we are concerned about sporadic cases of evictions being reported from some Municipalities, particularly in Mkhondo and Pixley Ka Isaka Seme.

On the same breath, one should appreciate the cooperation being received from some commercial farmers when engaged by the government team to respect the legislations such as Labour Tenant Act, ESTA and others.

Honourable Speaker,

I must mention that we launched the District Land Committee (DLC) in Gert Sibande, which is one of the first to be established, whose mandate will be to deal with all land related matters such as Land Acquisition, Development Support Initiatives Farm Dwellers complaints etc....

Organizations like the African Farmers Association of South Africa (AFASA), TWK, AFGRI, the Transvaal Agricultural Union (TAU), the National African Farmers Union (NAFU), Agri Mpumalanga and Municipalities, are part or members of the new District Land Committee.

The Department will continue to assist small scale farmers who are keen to get into partnerships with prominent commercial farmers. We will assist the farmers to develop production infrastructure in order to increase their equity.

These partnerships are therefore critical and ideal to close the gaps for critical management, equipment and operational expenses that are required to avoid job losses and keep the farms productive once they are transferred to the new owners.

This is what we as a Department, together with TSB, AFGRI, TWK, Food and Agricultural Organisation, Citrus Growers Association, Mondi and SAPPI, believe in.

Areas of our collaboration include mechanisation, training, poultry development on land reform beneficiaries, providing contracts and growing of markets for commodities, as well as providing land reform farmers market for grain procurement, contracting and production finance.

We envisage that it will assist all stakeholders involved in the agricultural sector to work in partnership towards improving farming at all level including the small-scale farming.

Considering that our province is largely rural and agrarian; we therefore noted that there is no way in which agriculture could grow and develop without the involvement of the rural communities and structures.

Land Care

R5.9 million will account for the Land Care programme across the province.

This will see an investment on awareness campaigns, capacity building on natural resource management issues, veld improvement project for establishing grazing camps by erecting fencing. This will include control of alien plants, soil rehabilitation for protection of contours and gabions, All these projects will be implemented in various Municipalities in the province.

Honourable Speaker,

Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

R4.1 million is set aside for EPWP with the focus to create job opportunities. Jobs to be created include,

70 Nursery and Vegetable Assistants;

66 Environmental Assistants;

60 Aquaculture labourers;

20 Animal Health Assistants and;

20 Data Captures.

R11.9 million will account for the payment of **181** Tractor drivers and **92** security guards employed under Masibuyele Emasimini Programme.

Sustainable Land Reform (Agrarian Transformation)

Madam Speaker,

160 farms will be supported with comprehensive support including agricultural advice, production inputs, mechanisation, and mentorship.

We will continue to provide settlement support services to land reform projects as means of bringing about agricultural production in the province.

The Department continues to provide support to **52** farms from all the Districts through various activities funded by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

Environmental Affairs

R85 683 million is put aside for this programme for the implementation of environmental programmes in all the Districts.

We will continue to do the following:

- Process and finalize the Environmental Authorizations within the legislated time frame.

180 authorizations were done last year;

150 authorizations will be done this year;

- Comment on mining applications,

100 mining applications were processed last year and

100 applications will be processed this year

- Comment on and water use applications;

116 were processed last year

100 applications will be processed this year

- Monitoring air quality monitoring stations. Currently there are four (4) Air quality monitoring stations in the province. They are at

Dipaliseng; Emalahleni; Lekwa and Steve Tshwete Municipality. The Department will also commission a new Air Quality Monitoring station in Victor Khanye Municipality, which will be launched during the World Environmental Month, which is June.

- Climate change programmes;

The Department will continue to empower communities on Climate change through awareness programmes. In addition the Department will be working on Climate Change Adaptation strategy with the sector Departments. These campaigns will include the schools at different levels;

- Continue with School awareness campaigns with the department of Education;
 1. Sustainable school yard programme for primary schools;
 2. Early childhood – water awareness programme for creches and
 3. Climate Change Programme for High Schools

- Greenest Town Competition;

Following the success of Mpumalanga in the GMC, the Department will continue to support Municipalities to maintain high standard expected of Mpumalanga in the National GMC. The continued effort and empowerment resulted in Nkomazi Local Municipality being the provincial winner and the third runner up at the national level, earning **R2.5** million rand towards environmental improvement last year.

- Biodiversity, grassland and wetlands campaigns;

This is a unique programme in Mpumalanga where the province celebrates the Twin Treasures

- Monitoring of waste management sites

The Department in partnership with the National Department of Environmental Affairs will ensure compliance on unlicensed landfill sites.

Madam Speaker,

Allow me to share some insight on sustainable development by: *Ban Ki-moon and I quote:*

“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.” End quote.

Madam Speaker,

Section 24 of the Constitution paves South Africa’s pathway to sustainable development and environmental stewardship, enshrining the right of all South Africans to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well being and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Constitution compels us to take reasonable steps on this pathway to prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.

The management of Environmental Quality can therefore not be compromised. In this regard we continued to make progress in the execution of our Environmental Impact Management and Pollution and Waste management mandates.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude Madam Speaker, I wish to appeal to this august House to approve the 2015/16 budget of **R1 018 624.000 Billion**, which is allocated in nine programmes as follows:

Programme 1: Administration: R137 810 million

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management: R65 495 million

Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development Services: R483 630 million

Programme 4: Veterinary Services: R116 441million

Programme 5: Technology, Research, and Development: R56 590 million

Programme 6: Agriculture Economics: R10 727 million

Programme 7: Structured Agriculture Training: R38 769 million

Programme 8: Rural Development: R23 479 million

Programme 9: Environmental Affairs an amount of R85 683 million

The Total Budget for approval is **R1 018 624.000 Billion (One billion, eighteen million six hundred and twenty four thousand Rand only).**

Honourable Speaker,

This budget will enable us to drive the programmes that constitute the work of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

I would like to thank our Honourable Premier, Mr D.D Mabuza, and Members of the Executive Council for their guidance and support.

I would also like to commend the oversight role played by:

- ✓ Portfolio Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, chaired by Honourable VV Windvoel.

Furthermore, I must thank the following for their continuous support:

- ✓ The Budget and Finance Committee

- ✓ The Director General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize and her staff
- ✓ The Head of Department Ms Sindisiwe Xulu for a sterling job
- ✓ The Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Rural Development and Land Reform, and Environmental Affairs
- ✓ Our external stakeholders, organised agriculture and farmers; let us continue working together, sustain livelihoods and Together move South African forward
- ✓ Staff in my office and in the entire Department
- ✓ The African National Congress
- ✓ My family, I would like to appreciate the support you are giving me

Siwumnyango weZolimo, ukuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya, Ezemihlaba kanye neZemvelo sithi:

Kubhunya Lutfuli, Kusephuka Tidzindzi, Siyalima eMpumalanga!

As we celebrate Africa month let us all say **No, to Xenophobic Attacks;**

Let me also give recognition to workers whose day was celebrated at the beginning of this month, and women in particular, as the main participants in the small scale farming;

I Thank You...