



Tekulima Nentfutfuko

Agriculture and Development

2nd Quarter 2012/13

**“For 67 minutes
you can make a
difference”**



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dardla
 Department:
 Agriculture, Rural Development
 and Land Administration
 MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT





MPUMALANGA EMERGING FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM NGUNI CATTLE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



HOD NL Sithole, MEC KC Mashego-Dlamini, Mr. T Mahanjane from IDC and officials from the University of Limpopo together with Nguni Project Beneficiaries

Thanks to a tripartite partnership between the Mpumalanga Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA), Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the University of Limpopo (UL), the Nguni Cattle Development Project has been successfully expanded to Mpumalanga Province to empower emerging farmers in the province.

The Nguni Cattle Project started operating in the Province since 2011 but was recently officially launched during a ceremonial event held at the Nootgedacht Research Farm, Ermelo in Mpumalanga Province. According to DARDLA, seventeen Nguni Projects have been identified to be loaned 30 pregnant heifers and an Nguni bull over a five-year period. The farmers will be expected to pay back the loan by providing the same number of heifers and a bull as progenies of the initial herd to the Trust within five years.

Honourable KC Mashego-Dlamini, Mpumalanga provincial MEC for DARDLA, said the project aims at speeding up economic growth and transforming the economy to create decent work and sustainable livelihoods as well as resuscitating the love of farming by the citizens.

Mashego-Dlamini indicated that the success of this project depends largely on the provision of extension services, training of livestock managers and project management. "The Nguni Cattle Development Project has been nothing

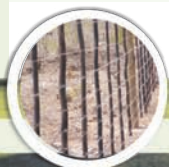
but a success story which will continue to flourish, this much is evidenced by other similar successful projects that were launched in recent years by IDC, institutions of higher learning and agricultural departments in provinces like Limpopo, North West, Free State and Eastern Cape", she concluded.

Prof Naftali Mollel of UL committed the institution in providing technical and advisory expertise in order for the project to become a success. "We therefore, congratulate Mpumalanga for joining the successful Nguni team as this is the most effective project in poverty alleviation", said Prof Mollel.

Appreciating the eagerness shown by beneficiaries and other partners in this project, Mr Tommy Mohajane of IDC urged farmers to comply with the terms and conditions of the loan in order for the project to be expanded to other beneficiaries.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr David Mthombeni, from Gegana Farming Project, appreciated the initiative saying it is a good move to empower emerging farmers and create employment opportunities.

The Nguni cow is an African breed known for its ability to thrive on natural grazing and is well positioned to enter the market for grass-fed beef.





NKOMAZI VEGETABLE COOP WINS PRESTIGIOUS PRODUCTIVITY SA AWARD

Celani Ndude

Ikhwezi Vegetables Cooperative situated in the Nkomazi Municipality has brought home the Mpumalanga Productivity SA Award 2012 for outstanding achievement in productivity improvement in the category: Cooperative Sector at a Mpumalanga Productivity SA Awards Ceremony. This ceremony was successful hosted at Ingwenyama Resort in White River on 21 September 2012.

Key to the objective of the Productivity SA Award event was honouring those companies and institutions

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that contribute towards building South Africa's productive capacity and it was also proudly displaying the productive successes in the province. The best performing sectors in the province's economy consist of Agriculture, Forestry, Tourism, Mining and Manufacturing. It was believed that Agro-processing was an important potential growth sector in the province.

Ikhwezi Vegetables Cooperative was one of the many successful projects that the Department of Agriculture



Ms Makhosazana Sambo, the Secretary for Ikhwezi Vegetables Coop, received the Productivity SA Award





Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) was mentoring and supporting through the District Services. The project participated in the finalists and was competing with Sonqoba Workers Coop (a manufacturing division of school T-shirts) when it scooped the Productivity SA Award under Cooperative Sector Category. Other sectors that participated in other categories were Emerging sector, Public Sector and Corporative Sector.

Ms Makhosazana Sambo, the Secretary for Ikhwezi Vegetables Coop, attended the Award ceremony and received the Productivity SA Award. She expressed joy and excitement, and said this was an indication that their project was growing rapidly and was recognised for its potential capacity. She further stated that she was still amazed how it was developing and now the project could compete with the big companies.

“We are very excited and delighted to have received this accolade from Mpumalanga Productivity SA Awards. I would like to thank all those involved in the wide range of activities and improvements which put us in the top position to achieve this recognition award. This is an indication that hard-work pays off. I would like to say to all stakeholders involved in the project this is for you keep on supporting us,” said Sambo expressing her joy.

This project is situated in a 12 ha farm at Sikhwahlane village in Madadeni Trust in Nkomazi Municipality near Malelane. It started in 1996, but was only registered as a co-operative in 2010. The Coop consists of eight members and has created 30 job opportunities for the locals. The primary objective of the co-operative was to produce agricultural products such as beetroot, butternuts, chillies, green peppers, maize, cabbage, onion, green beans, potatoes and citrus. They have

ploughed and planted vegetables on a 10 ha area. They sell and supply their products to the local community and supermarkets. The cooperative however was planning to expand its markets to other areas, as they were planning to also venture into Poultry.

Ms Makhosazana stated that the co-operative's productivity approach was based on training, teamwork and marketing, however, all of those innovations have contributed to their success.

She further said the management of the cooperative constantly attended training workshops with Mobile Agri Skills Development, Training Corporation and Small Enterprise Development Agency in expanding their farming knowledge and skills. She added that the quality of their produce was closely monitored by officials from Dardla, the Mobile Agri Skills Development and Training Corporation.

Other stakeholders such as the National Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries also pay visits to the farm to monitor progress and oversee the financial management of the project. The productivity approach has resulted in an increase in annual income from 2009 to 2011.

The Director for DARDLA Ehlanzeni South District office Mr. OB Magagula congratulated the Ikhwezi Vegetables Cooperative on winning this award and said it was indeed a great achievement. He said their contribution in the society was remarkable. He added that it was good to see Cooperatives becoming successful and making a positive impact in our communities. The Department encourages smallholder farmers to form cooperatives in order to access funds and a market.

STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO CONSOLIDATE CRDP STRATEGY

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“For as long as the majority of our people are still bedevilled with a myriad of social ills, we shall not rest and we dare not falter in our drive to eradicate poverty.” Fitting words expressed by honourable MEC KC Mashego Dlamini, setting the tone for stakeholders who on 17 July 2012 converged at the Lowveld College of Agriculture for a summit which was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration (DARDLA).





The aim of the summit was to finalize a draft provincial strategy for the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), whose main drive is to create vibrant and poverty free rural livelihoods. The draft document was mainly informed by extensive consultations through meetings of CRDP council of stakeholders throughout all seven CRDP municipalities to ensure that implementation of the programme is based on aspirations of the people.

In her opening remarks, Head of Department Ms NL Sithole took the gathering down memory lane from when the programme started and the milestones achieved since then. "Since the inception of CRDP in Mpumalanga Province, we commenced with a pilot in Mkhondo local municipality around October 2009 where we initially focused on three sites. Later in 2010, we rolled out the programme to other poverty stricken municipalities in the province where we paid attention to two or three wards. Currently we have since expanded the roll out sites to include 33 wards across the province," said Ms Sithole.

"We have seen some positive outcomes on the implementation of CRDP and we believe that those outcomes will help towards the crafting of a strategy that will benefit poor people in the province. This will guide

planning of the three spheres of government since rural development is cutting across. The platform which we have created today offers stakeholders an opportunity to input towards the final document that is going to be presented to cabinet," continued Ms Sithole.

In her key note address, honourable MEC KC Mashego-Dlamini asserted that though past rural development strategies and policies were considered in crafting the draft strategy, the present strategy was different in that it was premised on a proactive participatory community based planning approach rather than an interventionist approach to rural development.

"CRDP should not just be about social grants and hand outs but should assist in enabling our rural people to take control of their destiny with support from government. We believe that the finalization of the strategy marks another milestone which will assist in fast tracking the implementation of the programme. Together with all stakeholders, public and private we can push back the frontiers of poverty and create sustainable job opportunities in rural areas," said the MEC.

Areas which were to be deliberated upon on the day included Rural Development Focus Areas, Funding Model, Roll out Plan and Cooperative Development.



"For 67 minutes you can make a difference"





IN THE SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL IN HONOR OF TATA MADIBA'S BIRTHDAY

Celani Ndude and Righteous Mongwe

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**MEC and Dardla
Officials
fixing windows at
Dlamadoda Secondary
School**

As millions of people were celebrating Nelson Mandela's birthday and his legacy across the globe, the MEC for Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration Mrs. Candith Mashego-Dlamini was joined by the HOD Ms Nelisiwe Sithole, Senior Managers and officials when making a difference in the lives of the needy people in his honor.

In marking the Mandela Day Celebration and making it a success, the Department partnered with the Mpumalanga News/ Mirror, Meso ICT Solutions, the Nkomazi Executive Mayor and Local Councillors by dedicating their 67 minutes to service delivery.

The Department hosted this year's annual celebration on the 18th July 2012 at Madedani Trust in Nkomazi Local Municipality, one of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP)

sites in the province. The United Nations (UN) has declared the 18 of July, the former President Nelson Mandela's birthday, as an international Mandela Day in celebration of the statesman's legacy. Mandela dedicated 67 years of his life to political activism, and Mandela Day is a celebration of Mandela's life and a global call for people everywhere to take responsibility for making the world a better place.

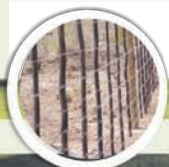
In the spirit of good will and rendering services to the poor and needy people in honor of Dr. Rholihlahla Mandela's Legacy, the department has taken this opportunity to first visit Ikhwezi Vegetable and Poultry Farming Project.

It was here in this project where the MEC and her entourage dedicated their first 67 minutes by planting potatoes, green pepper, tomatoes and harvesting green beans and butternut. The department has

also donated a Jojo tank and installed an irrigation system on this farm. The farm, a 12 ha project was established in 1996 with 12 members. Initially this project was funded by the Department of Social Development. This project was registered as a cooperative in 2010 and consists of 5 beneficiaries. Ikhwezi Vegetable and Poultry Farming project was one of the projects benefitting through the Department's Masibuyele Emasimini Programme.

The MEC wearing a green overall and her entourage still in the mood to give back in honor of the man who distinguished himself from others and dedicated his entire life for the liberation of the poor, the journey to celebrate the Mandela Day continued to Dlamadoda Secondary School. This was the MEC's second visit at the school.

It was here again at the school where she first started her visit as





part of her door to door campaign during the Cabinet Outreach programme in May 2012 at Nkomazi Local Municipality when she noticed that the school's windows were broken. She then promised that the department would replace the school's windows broken by the community and learners. On this day, it was a dream come true at Dlamadoda Secondary School, since the MEC kept her promise to fix the windows. The MEC's visit at the school also brought a smile to the 19 needy learners who received gifts from the team in the form of school uniform, school shoes, school shirts and gloves.. This year the Grade 12 learners have promised the MEC that would achieve more than 70 per cent as the school.

The celebrations did not end at Dlamadoda Secondary School but proceeded to Sihlangu 5 Drop-in Centre located meters away from the secondary school, Sihlangu Primary School and Ndlavela Primary School where the most of MEC's important guests the learners that were supported by the centre attend their respective classes.

Ms Thusile Mathabela, the Project Coordinator for the Sihlangu 5 Drop-in Centre stated that the centre was started in 2003, as a Home Based Care Centre and

later became a Drop-in Centre upon realizing the need to take care of the children who did not have parents to look after and those coming from poor child headed households.

This day brought joy and hope to the needy children as the MEC encouraged them to focus on their studies as the majority were still learners. She further assured them that if they put their mind to their books surely they would become respected leaders one day.

MEC and Thulani Lubisi a grade 10 student at Dlamadoda Secondary School posed as Tata Mandela of the day joyfully cut the birthday cake and shared in honor of Tata Mandela's birthday. The team further donated food parcels, garden tools, clothes and seedlings to the centre and also spent 67 minutes planting beetroot, spinach and cabbage with the members of the centre.

The HOD Ms Nelisiwe Sithole in her closing remarks said the department would ensure that someone would be employed to maintain the garden of the centre through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). She thanked everyone who have made it possible for the event to be successfully.



Department officials together with community members from Nkomazi Municipality, doing their part for Mandela Day





FARMERS SHARED IDEAS

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Umjindi Municipality- Many Land Reform farms were believed to be failing because of farmers that do not support each other, in combating this, farmers were encouraged to share expertise in order to achieve a common goal which is to feed the nation during a farmers day.

order to succeed and make a difference let us assist one another, share experiences, knowledge, skills and resources,” said Mr. Hlungwane. He added that the challenge that was facing many projects is the theft of water transformers.

In an effort to support smallholder farmers the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Administration (Dardla) had successfully organised a Potato Production Farmers’ Day in Barberton.

Despite the challenges that Mr. Hlungwane has encountered on the project he was optimistic that from his 8.8 ha planted was expecting a good harvest. He acquired his land through the Land Reform Programme in 2010. He has also benefitted from the Department’s Recapitalization programme. He has employed about 32 seasonal workers on the farm in support of the government’s job creation initiative.

A dedicated farmer, Mr. Musa Hlungwane was one of the many farmers benefitting from the Department’s initiatives aimed to support smallholder farmers through various departmental programmes. His project is located on a 193 ha farm called Quath Quan Farm in Barberton.

The Department has furthermore assisted Mr. Hlungwane to find a market where he will be able to sell his produce. He and other upcoming farmers were also encouraged to join the Department of Education’s School Nutrition Feeding Programme.

This farm is one of the first projects where the Department piloted the potato seeds for potato production. The Department through its District Support Services initiative bought Valor seeds potato for this project. He is not only involved in crop production but also involved in livestock production.

The event was graced by the attendance of various stakeholders from ARC, DAFF, Komati Catchment Management Agency, Buhle Academy, Omania, ICMA, Bayer and DRDLR whom shared the platform in exchanging of ideas and information to provide farming knowledge to farmers.

In his remarks Mr. Hlungwane indicated that the project was making inroads, looking good and expecting great results because of the support given by both departments of Dardla and Rural Development and Land Reform. He encouraged farmers to work together despite the challenges in order to achieve a common goal which was to feed the province and the nation.

The Ehlanzeni South District Director Mr. Oneday Magagula while making his closing remarks stated that the Department was committed to support projects like these which were making progress and creating job opportunities. He further emphasised that farmers should not be more concerned about finding a market. A Fresh Produce Market is earmarked for the province.

“Many projects are failing because we are not interested to know what is happening at our neighbour’s farm. In





HOD ON ROADSHOW TO CRDP MUNICIPALITIES

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The Head of Department for DARDLA Ms Nelisiwe Sithole visited all seven CRDP Municipalities in the month of September during a roadshow that was aimed at unpacking the content of the approved Provincial Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy (CRDP) Strategy. The Strategy, approved by the Provincial Executive Council on 22nd of August 2012, saw its implementation with effect from the 1st of September, 2012. The DARDLA has been mandated to coordinate and lead the CRDP in the province.

Making a presentation before Councillors in the Mkhondo Local Municipality's Council Chambers during the roadshow, Ms Sithole said "municipalities will no longer be the same, we want to see a turnaround in as far as service delivery is concerned through the implementation of the CRDP Strategy. Our Cooperatives need to be empowered and capacitated, they need our support", the HOD alluded. The Strategy advocates for the roll out of CRDP in all the wards under the seven municipalities. "The strategy says 30% of our budgets on procurement should remain with the rural communities, the cooperatives in particular". The HOD added.

During the roadshows Ms Sithole engaged Council of Stakeholders (COS) and Councillors, explaining what the Strategy talks to, who stands to benefit from it and the role to be played by local structures to make the Strategy work. She encouraged local structures to be

active and mobilise local communities into discussing issues of development around their areas.

"This forum, the COS's, is not meant to discuss problems faced by locals. Problems should be raised, discussed and get sorted at local level, at a Ward for example. When you come to the COSs meeting, you come to report about the progress that has been made in sorting out whatever challenge you facing in your ward. That is why it is very important to have clear structures, represented by relevant people who are willing to lead". Sithole said.

Responding to the HOD's presentation, the COS's appreciated the sterling job that the Department has done and continuously advocating the CRDP strategy.

The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme is strategic priority number 3 within government's current Medium Term Strategic Framework. It is implemented under Outcome 7 which strives for Vibrant, Equitable, Sustainable Rural Communities and Food Security for all. The CRDP was first piloted in Donkerhoek in the Mkhondo Municipality in 2009. The programme has since been expanded to six other local municipalities in the province, which are Nkomazi, Dr JS Moroka, Chief Albert Luthuli, Bushbuckridge, Thembisile Hani and Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme. Plans are underway to have the programme rolled out in all the wards that are under the CRDP municipalities.



HOD Nelisiwe Sithole unpacking the content of the approved Provincial Comprehensive Rural Development Strategy (CRDP) Strategy





BENEFICIARIES PROUD OF MASIBUYELE ESIBAYENI

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The birth of twin calves by a Heifer at the Kalkbank farm in the Daggakraal area under the Pixley ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality has brought tears of joy to the beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration's (DARDLA) Bull and Heifer programme. The farm, located in CRDP Ward 10 in Daggakraal, is home to the Maquabi Agricultural Primary Cooperative.

The cooperative benefited from the DARDLA's Bull and Heifer programme when 25 Heifers and a Bull were delivered to them in February this year. Since then, nine calves have since been born, while most of the other heifers are currently pregnant. The cooperative, with six beneficiaries, also received 25 Ewes and one Ram through DARDLA's Livestock Development Programme.

Chairperson of the cooperative Jeremiah Nkosi says they are happy with the birth of the twin calves, a bull calf and a heifer calf, adding that this will enable them not to wait for the five year deadline for the return of the 25 heifers and a bull to the Department. "We look forward to start returning them sooner, to help the Department fast-track its efforts of helping other emerging livestock farmers. We have already taken a decision that we will return five sheep annually starting from next year. I think we are motivated by the rate at which these animals reproduce, and this gives us the assurance that our plan to start handing them back will go ahead without hindrances". Nkosi said.

The twin calves and their Drakensberg mother have demystified the myth that in most cases the mother

tends to keep one calf and reject the other. The identical twins were feeding without hassles when the Communications team visited the farm, so much that another calf that attempted to join and feed with the twins got a good kick in the process.

The only challenge lying ahead is that the heifer calf will most likely not reproduce upon reaching puberty. The website www.cattlemanagement.com/twin reveals that twin calves can reproduce provided they are both male or both female. According to the website, the problems arise if you have brother and sister twins. Apparently, ninety percent of the time the female will be a freemartin or hermaphrodite because of the influence of the testosterone produced by her brother who was sharing the same placenta as her. The bull calf though, is 100% fertile unless you castrate him.

The MEC for the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration Mrs Candith Mashego-Dlamini says the Masibuyele Esibayeni Programme encompasses all the ruminant and non-ruminant livestock commodities such as cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. Its intended goal seeks to redress the imbalance of the past by supporting the livestock farmers through livestock industrial development and support by creating a conducive environment and opportunities for farmers to penetrate the red meat industry through the improvement of their stock by supplying them with stud and/or commercial breeding bulls in order to improve the performance parameters of their already existing female stock and/or supporting farmers with certain bloodline for purposes of developing a specific genetic pool bloodline, the MEC said.





FARMERS ENCOURAGED TO PUT MORE EFFORT ON FOOD PRODUCTION

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Mr. Stanley Maphalu is one of the many smallholder farmers used to battle with finding a market for produced vegetables but now he is telling a successful story.

In an effort to motivate farmers to go back to farming and till the land, the Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Land administration (Dardla) through its District Support Services initiatives, was yielding results.

This was evident during a Vegetable Farmers Day organised by the Department recently at White River Estate Farm in Mbombela Municipality, aimed to give farmers from various projects an opportunity to exchange ideas and recognise the hard work was put by other farmers in producing good a harvest.

Stanley's project is situated at White River and farming on an 8 ha project and ploughed and planted vegetables on a 4 ha field. The project was started in 2009, aimed to produce vegetables and create job opportunities. But when it started it did not do well because of the hail storm which destroyed all the tomato crops that were planted then. In 2010 they approached the DARDLA for assistance. The project has benefitted from the Department's initiative Masibuyele Emasimini Programme. They were also assisted with production inputs. The project produces crops such as cabbage, spinach and potatoes.

Addressing other fellow farmers, Mr. Maphalu was optimistic that his farm was doing very well, due to the support that he has been receiving from the Department. "We are no longer worried about finding a market anymore. We are supplying big markets like Pick n' Pay in Hazyview, Spur in White River and people selling on the street," added Mr. Maphalu.

He further encouraged other farmers to join cooperatives because it was easy to get a market if the product was in good quality. He said he once approached Checkers store for a market and they visited the project but they acknowledged that the project was doing good though

they believed that the project alone would not meet the high demand expected from it.

The Director for District Support Services for Ehlanzeni South Mr. OB Magagula alluded to Mr. Stanley's call on farmers. He emphasised that the Department was prepared to give farmers all the support they need but they have to work as a group and form a secondary cooperative which will be able to supply a bigger market. He added that the Department had already partnered with the Department of Education where farmers will be able to supply their production through the School Nutrition Feeding Programme.

The activities on the day included field visit and presentations from the Department of Water Affairs on Water Rights, ARC on Mushroom Production and drying of vegetables and fruits, DAFF on CLARA and Dardla on Land Access, Market Access, Masibuyele Esibayeni, Masibuyele Emasimini and Soil Sampling.



Field visit by farmers, officials from the Department of Water Affairs, ARC, DAFF and Dardla





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The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration endorses the principles of Integrity and Accountability in Resource Management



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